Daily Report

Latin America

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Friday
21 December 1990

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NOTICE TO READERS: As of 2 January 1991, television sourcelines in the DAILY REPORT will reflect how a station identifies itself. In most cases, this change eliminates the "Television Service" designation in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new television sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Cuba

U.S. Said 'Hiding Truth' About Panama Invasion

FL2012140490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 20 Dec 90

["Our Opinion" commentary]

[Text] At 12:46 am [0546 GMT] on 20 December 1989, the United States launched a massive military attack against Panama, first using aerial bombardment and then heavy artillery and ultramodern armed helicopters. Later there came the tank attack, and finally the unleashing of 30,000 soldiers against a small country that for years had suffered a virtual economic blockade and political siege and that did not have numerous or well-equipped armed forces. Washington tried out new weapons in Panama, including the most sophisticated plane it has, the F-117A, never used before then.

With these weapons it not only bombed military targets, but civilian centers. Entire neighborhoods were turned into burning ashes, like El Chorrillo. This military operation, with the subsequent military occupation that has continued to today, violated the UN Charter, the OAS Charter, and all the concepts and principles that govern coexistence among nations.

The pretext Washington used was the need to capture a man to try him in the United States. But the real strategic goals were to maintain control over the Panama Canal beyond the year 2000—in complete disregard of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties—and to change the correlation of forces in Central America. The official figures for casualties among U.S. soldiers given by the Pentagon was 23 dead. As for Panamanians, after much hesitation they placed the casualties at around 400.

Later investigations by Panamanians indicated the existence of mass graves into which unidentified bodies were thrown. The destruction of entire neighborhoods is a categorical denial of this manipulation of the casualties. There are sources that estimate thousands of civilians and a great number of Panamanian and American soldiers died during the operations and in the following days when the occupation of the country began.

It is curious, to say the least, that American journalists—and there are some quite good ones, very good I would say—have not conducted an investigation on the ground to ascertain how many soldiers from their country really died in this brutal attack, and how many Panamanian men, women, and children were sacrificed in this crime.

Why has no American journalist decided to conduct this investigation? Obviously, it is not because of a lack of funds or the difficulty of working in a country that is militarily occupied by U.S. troops. There is another reason: Washington has imposed an iron curtain of silence over this matter. Perhaps 20 years from now, after the year 2000, a white—or black—paper will appear about what really occurred in Panama.

Today, the American political-military hierarchy does not want the American people or the international community to know the truth. How could they justify this crime? How could they say that they bombed poor people's neighborhoods, that they summarily executed wounded people, that bodies with their hands tied behind their backs have appeared in the mass graves? How could they explain so many mutilated bodies of women and children?

Why is Washington hiding the truth and does it not want journalists—not even from its own country—to investigate on the ground? The crime is still fresh. There are still 18,000 Panamanians without homes because their houses were destroyed by the bombing. There are still thousands of dead without names. The crime is still fresh, and the Panamanian people have not forgotten.

Foreign Ministry Acknowledges CSFR's Decision

FL2012015090 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0119 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Cuba has learned about the decision made by the CSFR Government to not continue representing Cuba's diplomatic and consular interests with the U.S. Government. This action taken by the CSFR Government responds to the current situation wherein the socialist Czechoslovakia that took over this representation in 1961 no longer exists.

Under these circumstances, the Cuban Foreign Ministry will find the appropriate opportunity to see that its interests are represented in the United States by a government that can fulfill that diplomatic function in a sovereign and responsible manner.

Signed, Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Cuba.

More on University Students' Federation Congress

Castro Participates

FL2012144190

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1251 GMT on 20 December carries a 10-minute recorded report on discussions under way at the Fourth Congress of the Federation of University Students, FEU, at the Conventions Palace in Havana, with Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz presiding.

The announcer indicates that discussions during the afternoon and evening of 19 December "centered on presentations by delegates from the country's schools of medicine and teachers institutes." In response to comments on the advisability of having medical students participate in the family doctor plan before choosing any specialty, Fidel Castro says:

"When the day comes that many of the comrades who are today participating in the family doctor process are working in hospitals and serving as professors, then they will have a much greater understanding of the need to

attend to this. Many of the teachers have exerted a negative influence because when students pass through their hands, they begin to put the idea of a specialty in the students' heads, and then many of the students begin to concentrate on specialties.

"Of course, direct specialization has been a necessity. It is not the ideal way of training a doctor, but we have had scarcities of pediatricians, for example. Why have we had a scarcity of pediatricians? Because there was a shortage of pediatricians at the polyclinics, precisely because of the need to teach family doctors. There were not enough of them, so it was necessary to have many students directly study pediatrics.

"The idea is that in the future, or as soon as possible, all students should go through overall general medicine. There are some who feel that even surgeons should go through overall general medicine. There is no doubt that the general practitioner knows more about medicine."

On the need for strict entrance requirements for teacher-training institutes, Fidel Castro says:

"It is a disgrace that in 1990, we are still allowing people from the basic secondary schools to study to be primary school teachers. In these circumstances, we cannot speak about the quality of our teaching. How many, what percentage would we have if we established the requirement that they all come from preuniversities, and moreover, not just anybody from the preuniversities but only those who meet entrance requirements?" [applause]

Castro later asks a student spokesperson: "What is this about a mechanism by which a person can get into the institute even with a zero in one subject?"

The student explains that it is a matter of filling the number of available slots. In response, Castro says: "We have to give up this obsession of meeting the goal [in numbers]." The student agrees, after which Castro says:

"We have no choice but to adopt an adequate policy in this regard, a policy that is to some extent radical. Look, we have a great reserve of teachers. I think that we should resort to that reserve to a greater extent. We might say: I am allowing a smaller number to study, but they are being replaced by others. I could authorize 1,000, 2,000, or 3,000 teachers from the reserve when they are needed to fill the slots. Thus, it would be possible to fill the slots.

"I believe this city can solve this problem to a great extent. After all, Guantanamo has solved it, except in the area of English, despite the presence of the naval base next door. Except in English, they no longer have contract teachers [contratados]. If we use the resources that we have, the students in the teachers institutes, both for primary and secondary schools, we can fill any vacancy in time. But we have to start now to seek quality."

The students then proceed to expound further on this subject.

Fidel, Raul Attend Closing

FL2112032190 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0302 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The final event of the Fourth FEU [Federation of University Students] Congress has begun with our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Army General Raul Castro in attendance. Over 500 delegates and guests are attending the congress. The results of the vote to elect the members of the National Secretariat and the FEU president, in charge of leading the organization's tasks in the next four years, were announced to the delegates during the closing ceremony of the most important students' event.

The representatives of the universities of the entire country held extensive discussions and demonstrated a variety of views during the two days of work [words indistinct] food program and placement, considering the current [words indistinct] conditions. Because of its importance, it was agreed to hold a meeting next year to define the placement of university graduates.

The delegates to the Fourth FEU Congress elected Carmen Rosa Baez Martinez, who has a bachelor's degree in psychology, as president of the FEU National Council, and Ernesto Lopez Mola as vice president. Carmen Rosa is a former member of the FEU National Secretariat. During her student years she was president of that organization at the [words indistinct] Central University. Ernesto Lopez Mola, vice president of the FEU, is a graduate of foods chemistry and is a nongraduate instructor. He actively participated in the amateur artists festivals and in scientific fairs.

The delegates to the student congress also elected the 14 members of the National Secretariat and its Council, composed of the presidents of each higher education center.

Castro Closing Address

FL2112043590 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0402 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, said at the closing ceremony of the Fourth FEU [Federation of University Students] Congress that Cuba is holding up the socialist banners in the world. Our top leader then asserted that just a few hours ago, with [word indistinct] repugnant opportunism, Czechoslovakia stated that it would stop representing Cuba's interests in the United States. Fidel added that they are vulgar agents of the imperialists inasmuch as they have sent troops to participate in the possible Persian Gulf war. Fidel said we have a hard time not crying because of how moving this closing ceremony has been, but we do not want to have to throw up.

With all the events that have taken place in the world, we have to ask why the Cuban revolution has not collapsed, said Fidel. Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro noted those events and stressed that they have had an enormous effect in the Cuban economy since Cuba received

a large quantity of goods from the Eastern European countries. He also explained that the events in the USSR, with which we maintained the greatest percentage of economic relations, have had a strong impact on our economy. The top leader said that the fact our small but courageous and intelligent country is capable of keeping the banners of socialism held high is a feat.

The commander in chief asserted that in those difficult times in 1959 or 1960, when we had to improvise to keep factories open, the support of the USSR was of extraordinary importance. Fidel noted that our country has received three million tons of fuel less—that is, 25 percent less. He added: We do not have large rivers to produce energy; thus, the challenge under these circumstances, with the USSR's problems, is much greater. He said that being a revolutionary is of much greater merit; a greater awareness is required; a much greater act of trust, love, and heroism is needed than the one ever required.

Fidel said our challenge does not have an equal in history if we take into consideration the characteristics of the current worldwide forces. The first secretary of the party's Central Committee stated that he did not express those words with the intention of discouraging them because he knew that the university students would never be discouraged. Fidel added that the greatness of the work we are doing cannot be forgotten for an instant because, he added, we are going to resist, survive, and overcome; thus an insurmountable tenacity and a very decisive conscience is needed.

French Communists Express Support for Revolution

FL2012131090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] During its second day of sessions, the 27th Congress of the French Communist Party expressed its admiration for the Cuban revolution and Cuba's determination to defend its independence and socialism.

Maxime Gremetz, member of the party's Politburo, expressed these sentiments of the communists and the French people. The almost 2,000 participants in the Congress responded with an ovation of several minutes and vivas for Cuba. The delegates also expressed their support for the proposal to organize a collection among the people of France and other European and Mediterranean countries to send a ship loaded with oil to Cuba.

The Cuban delegation to the Congress, headed by Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, said that it was not possible in the past nor will it be possible in the centuries to come to erase from history the heroism of French communists.

Head of Soviet Friendship Association Appointed

FL2012184890 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Colonel Arnaldo Tamayo has been appointed president of the Soviet-Cuban Friendship Association by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples [ICAP]. In a solemn ceremony held at the ICAP offices, the first Latin American cosmonaut was presented as continuing the work of friendship with the USSR, which has been carried out by this institute since its foundation in 1969 under the leadership of Dr. Zoilo Marinello until his death.

Tobacco Workers' Union Begins Sixth Congress

FL2012190590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The sixth congress of the National Union of Tobacco Workers began today with the discussion of the main report here at the Olof Pantoja Provincial Party School in Havana. This union meeting is the culmination of a wide-ranging assembly process carried out from the base level, in which the successes and innumerable deficiencies that affect both industrial and agricultural tobacco workers were analyzed.

After about eight years without meeting at this level, the almost 250 delegates will analyze the main problems that affect their field—principally production, workforce retention, and living conditions—over the two days of this sixth congress. [passage omitted]

The main report for this tobacco workers' congress states that by the middle of the current five-year period, cigar exports had dropped by about 50 million boxes, which lowered the country's hard currency income from this source. Another deficiency mentioned in the document is the poor quality of cigarettes made for domestic consumption, in addition to a lack of labor discipline and proper monitoring.

Pedro Ross, an alternate member of the Politburo and the secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation; the president of the National Association of Small Farmers; the ministers of agriculture and the State Committee for Labor and Social Security; and other leaders are presiding over this congress. You will receive further information on this union meeting in upcoming news programs.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

OECS Figures: Trade Deficit Growing Rapidly

FL2012182090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1716 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Dec 20, CANA—The seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is experiencing a 16 percent annual increase in its balance of trade deficit, according to the Eastern Caribbean States Export Development Agency (ECSEDA). Just-released ECSEDA figures put the current deficit at EC 1.6 billion dollars (one EC dollar = 37 cents U.S.), prompting executive director Justin Vincent to issue a warning that "non-tradtional exports must make up much of the difference if we are to maintain jobs and our standard of living, along with political stability."

Vincent said total sales from the sub-region's top eighteen companies reached EC 215 million dollars in 1990, with exports accounting for 62 percent, or just over 133 million dollars of that amount. The ECSEDA director said OECS countries had to more than double their current seven percent annual growth rate in manufactured exports to around 18 percent "to avoid economic dislocation in 1993/94." He said this "enormous task" required the full and coordinated effort of the sub-region's private sector, governments, and people.

OECS: Less-Developed Nations Hurt by CET

FL2012225590 Bridgetown CANA in English
2151 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Report by Richard Simon]

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec. 20, CANA—The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States [OECS] stands to lose from the implementation of a Common External Tariff [CET] in January, according to the head of the OECS Economic Affairs secretariat, Dr. Carl Mitchell.

Mitchell, on a one-day visit to Grenada, said: "One of our studies on the CET indicated that the cost-of-living impact could range from two-six percent among member states. Our concerns now are really about the combined effects of the CET and the oil crisis. Our concern is that we don't find ourselves in 1991 in double-digit inflation."

The OECS comprises seven countries—Dominica, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent [and the Grenadines], St. Lucia, Montserrat, and St. Kitts-Nevis. They and six others comprise the Caribbean Community [Caricom], which agreed to launch the controversial tariff in January.

Dr. Mitchell, an economist, told the Caribbean News Agency [CANA] that inflation in the region currently stands at four or five percent. He says while there is no reason to be alarmed about the situation, there needs to be some concern. Dr. Mitchell told CANA the OECS has been following "a liberal approach to trade and had less restrictive tariffs."

The head of the OECS secretariat says the CET in its present form is "very benefical" to the More Developed Countries [MDC's] of the community because it means a lowering of their tariff, "but for the OECS states it means an increase of our overall tariff. So we are concerned about the effect that will have on our export-oriented trade strategy. For us it means a setback."

The OECS official said the MDC's should have followed the example set by the OECS and have tariff levels comparable with OECS states instead of "having the smaller countries accept higher tariff levels than they have in effect."

Bahamas

Shipwrecked Cubans Rescued by Defense Force

FL2012174590 Bridgetown CANA in English
1657 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Dec 20, CANA—Fifty U.S.-bound Cuban refugees, rescued by the Royal Bahamas Defence Force [RBDF] after their boat was shipwrecked here earlier this week, were scheduled to meet reporters here Thursday afternoon, amid speculation they may seek political asylum here instead. The 46 men and four women were reported dissatisfied with life in Cuba and had planned applying for political asylum in the United States.

They had been at sea five days when their 32-foot wooden hull single engine boat was shipwrecked south of Acklins Island on December 16, RBDF spokesman Lieutenant Commander Harvey Sweeting said. The boat was "waylaid" by a faulty compass, hit a reef, and sank, he said.

Except for cuts and bruises, the refugees were in good condition. They ranged in age from 15 to 47 years. Said one 27 year-old refugee from Pinar del Rio: "If you don't have liberty, you don't have life." He said that none of the Cubans had relatives in the United States and this was their first attempt to escape.

"All people who are in disagreement with the political system want to leave the country," another refugee said.

Bahamian authorities were attempting to get Jamaica-based representatives of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees here to help them resolve the situation.

Bermuda

New Director of Information Services Appointed

FL1912193290 Bridgetown CANA in English
1849 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Dec 19, CANA—Former Bermuda Regiment commander, Gavin Shorto, has been appointed director of Information Services, the government said on Wednesday. Lieutenant Colonel Shorto, 48, who held the regiment post for six years until stepping down in October, is expected to take up his new U.S. 73,000 dollar a year post on January 2. He succeeds Canadian Don McGregor who held the post for two years before leaving the island recently.

A former editor of the MID-OCEAN NEWS, one of the island's three weekly newspapers, Col. Shorto earlier held the post of director of Public Relations. It was while in that position that he earned plaudits from the international press for his handling of inquiries following the 1973 murders of Governor Sir Richard Sharples and his aide de camp Hugh Sayers.

As commander of the island's 700-strong part-time regiment, Col. Shorto often accompanied his troops on their regular training camps in the mountains of Jamaica.

Haiti

Further on Partial Elections Results

FL2112015090 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Provisional Electoral Council's latest partial election results were issued at 1745 GMT, on all nine departments, and based on a total of more than half a million voters:

Thomas Desulme, National Party for Workers	
South	3,189 votes
Southeast	446 votes
Grand-Anse	1,269 votes
West	376 votes
Plateau-Central	2,784 votes
Artibonite	2,353 votes
North	465 votes
Northeast	276 votes
Northwest	48;
Total: 11,206 votes, or 1.82 percent.	

Fritz Simon, independent	
South	1066 votes
Southeast Department	243 votes
Grand-Anse	570 votes
West	97 votes
Plateau-Central	638 votes
Artibonite	621 votes
North	358 votes
Northeast	170 votes
Northwest	19
Total: 3,782 votes, or 0.62 percent.	

Marc Louis Bazin, National Alliance for Democracy and Progress, 159 in	
South	14,159
Southeast	4,179
Grand-Anse	8,985
West	4,415
Plateau-Central	9,812
Artibonite	24,842
North	9,641
Northeast	4,927
Northwest	2,452
Total: 83,412 votes, or 13.58 percent	

Rene Theodore, Movement for National Reconstruction	
South	3,642
South-east	1,003
Grand-Anse	1,998
West	292
Plateau-Central	1,706
Artibonite	2,029
North	1,426
Northeast	387
Northwest	573
Total: 13,056 votes, or 2.13 percent	

Jean-Bertrand Aristide, National Front for Change and Democracy	
South	102,236
Southeast	43,521
Grand-Anse	46,753
West	62,583
Plateau-Central	28,884
Artibonite	59,837
North	38,907
Northeast	19,906
Northwest	6,220
Total: 408,847 votes, or 66.57 percent	

Richard Vladimir Jeanty, Haitian Party of God	
South	1,388
Southeast	379
Grand-Anse	795
West	75
Plateau-Central	650
Artibonite	543
North	659
Northeast	175
Northwest	55
Total: 4,719 votes, or 0.67 percent	

Francois Latortue, Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti	
South	1,198
Southeast	639
Grand-Anse	953
West	98
Plateau-Central	828;
Artibonite	686
North	1,055
Northeast	443
Northwest	51
Total: 5,951 votes, or 0.97 percent	

Sylvio C. Claude, Haitian Christian Democratic Party	
South	5,304
Southeast	1,965
Grand-Anse	3,986
West	744
Plateau-Central	2,323
Artibonite	5,374
North	2,007;
Northeast	218
Northwest	261
Total: 22,182 votes, or 3.61 percent.	

Hubert de Ronceray, Mobilization for National Development	
South	2,431
Southeast	2,341
Grand-Anse	1,464
West	380
Plateau-Central	1,633
Artibonite	1,514
North	1,136
Northeast	292
Northwest	137
Total: 11,328 votes,or 1.84 percent	

Volvick Remy Joseph, National Cooperative Action Movement	
South	2,273
Southeast	585
Grand-Anse	1,824
West	132
Plateau Central	1,251
Artibonite	1,236
North	1,022
Northeast	285
Northwest	120
Total: 8,728 votes, or 1.42 percent	

Louis Dejoie II, Agricultural and Industrial National Party	
South	25,839
Southeast	3,864
Grand-Anse	3,051
West	517
Plateau Central	1,886
Artibonite	3,258
North	1,983
Northeast	430
North	138
Total: 40,966 votes, or 6.6 percent.	

Jean-Bertrand Aristide comes in first, with 66.57 percent; Marc Bazin comes second, with 13.58 percent, and Louis Dejoie comes third, with 6.6 percent.

European Parliament Observers View Elections

FL2012204590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The elections of last Sunday were free elections, conducted in the open. Everything regarding these elections was quite clear, according to a statement yesterday by Henry Sabi of the French Socialist Party, European deputy and president of the Development Commission of the European Parliament, after he observed the process leading up to the elections on 16 December. Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's victory seems quite apparent to us; there is no doubt of that, commented Mr. Sabi who also noted that although there were intermittent confusions and some organizational errors, these minor problems had no effect on the integrity of the balloting.

This European parliamentarian considers the Sunday elections an occasion of joy for the Haitian people who turned out to vote for their leaders with confidence and dignity. Mr. Sabi asserted that he would provide testimony of this phenomenon to the other representatives of countries which form the European Parliament. Through these elections, he continued, Haiti will find the way to a state of order, a democratic state that must allow the Haitian people to take control of their destiny and move toward development.

Sabi considers it inaccurate for observers to advise that they will respect the results of the elections in Haiti. It would be more appropriate for them to state that they will respect the dignity of the Haitian people and the right they have exerted to freely choose their leaders. [passage omitted]

Mr. Sabi further added that the Haitian Government must freely determine the nation's priorities. It is not the right of the European Parliament, or of any other foreign countries, to unilaterally determine what kind of help to provide to Haiti. It is up to Haiti itself to decide.

Mr. Sabi advocated a new world economic order while criticizing the World Bank and International Monetary Fund's adjustment policy for what he considers to be inadequate provision for poor countries. [passage omitted] He believes that the policy of developed countries toward countries that are considered underdeveloped is abnormal and immoral.

Finally, the European Parliament envisions economic cooperation with Haiti, and is ready to condemn any and all foreign attempts to intervene in Haiti, pressuring the

new democracy and the Haitian people to think and act according to how outsiders think they should act and think.

ONUVEH Congratulates People on Election

FL2012211290 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The communique issued on 19 December by the United Nations Organization for Verification of the Haitian Elections [ONUVEH] congratulates the Haitian people for the manner in which the elections unfolded and for their success in exercising their sovereign right to choose the people they want to lead them. ONUVEH will stay in Haiti, with the consent of all concerned parties, to continue its mission until the electoral process ends.

Northwestern Candidates Express Discontent

FL2012235990 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Mr. Lenox Broom, UN coordinator for the Northwestern Department, met on the morning of 18 December with several political party representatives and candidates for Senate, Parliament, mayor, and the Communal Section Administrative Council [Casec] to hear them openly voice their opinions. Most of the candidates took issue with the way the elections were held in the Northwestern Department and asked that the elections for Parliament, municipality, and Casec be reheld because they are dissatisfied with the results. Ballots were missing and political party representatives were not authorized to supervise the elections on that day. Jose Lafrance, parliamentary candidate for the Haitian Christian Democratic Party, protested about ballots not arriving on time in some Bureaus for Registration and Vote. [passage omitted] Some candidates criticized the Northwestern Communal Electoral Bureau because no plan had been established to monitor the progress of the situation. [passage omitted]

The UN coordinator took notes on all that was said and promised to provide a solution so that Haiti could progress. Candidates appeared satisfied with the results of the meeting and are awaiting the final outcome.

Jamaica

Government Extends Invitation to Aristide

FL2012134590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1205 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 20, CANA—Jamaica has extended an invitation to Haitian president-elect, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to come here on an official visit, the government announced Wednesday. Junior Foreign Minister Ben Clare told reporters the dates would be finalised as soon as the results of Sunday's presidential election are certified.

Clare, who was giving local reporters an overview of the Haitian elections, said Jamaica wanted to discuss with Aristide future cooperation between Haiti and the Caribbean Community (Caricom). The Jamaican official, who was a member of an international observer team at Sunday's elections, expressed confidence that the Roman Catholic priest-turned politician would be a "good president" and that the Armed Forces would not intervene in the running of the country.

Clare, when asked what kind of person Aristide was, said he was a man with a "tremendous social conscience" who was anxious to improve the lot of the Haitian people. He endorsed the nod of approval already given to the elections by the international ovserver team headed by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and said he was pleased with the role that Caricom had played.

Charter Flights Between Cuba, Island Resume

FL2012143090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1218 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 20, CANA—The first charter flight from Cuba to Jamaica in over 10 years touched down in the second city of Montego Bay on Wednesday with 28 passengers aboard, radio reports said. Radio Jamaica said the new weekly charter service was a venture between Cubanacan Airlines and Sunshine Holidays of Jamaica.

Richard Longo, Caribbean director of Cubanacan, said the charter would initially operate each Wednesday out of Havana, offering tourists a one day tour of Jamaica. There are plans to increase the number of flights to two a week in a fortnight.

The resumption of the charters is the second major development in tourism cooperation since Jamaica and Cuba re-established diplomatic relations recently. Last week, it was reported that Jamaican hotelier John Issa was investing in two hotels in Cuba.

Trinidad and Tobago

Nation 'Satisfied' With Haiti Elections

FL2012154590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1440 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 20, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago is satisfied with the conduct of Sunday's elections in Haiti, according to External Affairs Minister Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo. In a release, Basdeo said the Caribbean Community (Caricom) observer team and its Trinidad and Tobago members had reported that the elections appeared to be completed without any recurrence of the violence that wrecked the 1987 poll.

Basdeo, however, said the government wanted to express its sorrow over the death of one person, shot dead by police during post-election celebrations over the victory of populist presidential candidate Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Longest-Serving Parliamentary Speaker Dies

FL2012215090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1840 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 20, CANA—Arnold Thomasos, the longest-serving Parliamentary speaker in the Commonwealth, died here on Thursday after a long illness, the opposition People's National Movement (PNM) said. He was 84.

Thomasos was speaker of the Trinidad and Tobago House of Representatives for 20 years from 1961-1981 during the 30-year rule of the PNM. He entered politics in 1956 when he won a Parliamentary seat on a PNM ticket.

El Salvador

FMLN Rejects President's Declaration

PA2012192690 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) General Command in El Salvador on 18 December—read by announcer]

[Text] Regarding the declaration on El Salvador that was signed by the Central American presidents in Puntarenas, the FMLN states the following to the Salvadoran people and the international community:

1. The declaration is based on views that do not correspond to the Salvadoran reality. The declaration's biggest mistake is that it completely omits the Salvadoran Armed Forces' manuevers, bombings, repression, and general violence in the weeks prior to 20 November.

2. The declaration makes unilateral demands on the FMLN. It does not make any demand on the Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces. It ignores the massacre of the Jesuit priests, which was condemned by national and international public opinion, and the human rights violations perpetrated by the Armed Forces, which have been verified by creditable international organizations. In this sense, it is a declaration that totally lacks objectivity, covers up, and advocates the continuity of the policies of the government and Armed Forces.

3. Furthermore, the declaration is totally unjust when it [word indistinct] that the Salvadoran people and the FMLN's military forces not defend themselves from the bombings and all the atrocities committed against them by the Armed Forces.

4. The declaration returns to proposals that are totally incompatible with the advances that have been made in the Salvadoran negotiations. The declaration goes against the agreements reached in Geneva and Caracas when it calls for a cease-fire without the prior attainment of political agreements and when it again presents the proposal—which has been fully rejected—of holding a dialogue only with unarmed opposition groups.

5. Given the above, the declaration on El Salvador issued by the Central American presidents is against the position held by most Salvadoran political and social forces and by the entire international community.

6. It is evident that Cristiani's regime is sinking very quickly and that its desperation has prompted it to ask the Central American presidents to issue such an absurd declaration.

7. We hope that the Central American presidents do not continue to make statements that do not contribute in any way toward solving the Salvadoran conflict. If not, they will discredit themselves as serious statesmen and will deny themselves the possibility of contributing positively to the peace process.

8. The FMLN only heeds just, objective, balanced, and constructive suggestions that express legitimate concern and reasonable positions.

9. We will continue to strive to attain peace with justice for our country; however, we will also continue to legitimately defend ourselves militarily from those who repress our people and obstruct all possibilities of reaching a political solution to the conflict. Also, we will continue to base our negotiating policy on the Geneva and Caracas agreements, which clearly establish that a cease-fire is to be reached when there are important political agreements on the points covered in the Caracas agenda.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

[Dated] El Salvador, 18 December 1990

National Army for Democracy Issues Bulletin

PA2112001790 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Bulletin No. 8, issued by the General Staff of the National Army for Democracy—place and date not given]

[Text] The general staff of the National Army For Democracy [ENPD] reports to the nation:

1. Within the framework of our Punish the Antidemocratic Armed Forces campaign, we have issued instructions to all our of units to attack, harass, and annihilate the Army's forces, particularly the elite battalions and the Air Force.

2. In compliance with these instructions, our forces have killed four pilots and caused many casualties among the Air Force's technical personnel and artillery forces in less than one month.

3. On 10 December our forces attacked members of the Bracamonte Battalion in Las Vueltas, Chalatenango Department, causing many casualties and capturing several members.

4. The Bracamonte Battalion's forces were cornered in compliance with our instructions to ruthlessly persecute the elite battalions; they desperately fled into Honduran territory through La Guarita Municipality, Lempira Department.

There will be no respite for the Jesuits' killers. The ENPD will exist as long as the antidemocratic Armed Forces exist.

[Signed] ENPD General Staff.

President Cristiani Views Current Situation

PA2112013090 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Rene Hurtado report on interview with President Alfredo Cristiani by unidentified reporters at the Legislative Assembly in San Salvador on 19 December—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] "Mr. President: The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has issued a communique criticizing the position expressed by the Central American presidents in the Puntarenas Declaration and has warned that it will continue with its armed actions. What do you think about the FMLN's position?"

[Cristiani] "First of all, I regret the FMLN's stubborness. Not only are they ignoring the calls by the Salvadoran people asking them to stop the violence, but also calls from Central America and elsewhere. As you know, there have been expressions of concern over the intensified violence of the FMLN since November. This is regrettable because violence makes it difficult to believe that there will be the necessary flexibility and goodwill to complete the peace process within a short period of time. Violence generates more violence, which in turn hinders the process."

"I consider it regrettable that the FMLN refuses to discuss what virtually the entire world is demanding—an end to the violence in our country. The Central American presidents were very emphatic on this. I also favor the Central American president's decision to make their summit meeting an active forum to promote peace in El Salvador. We hope this will contribute toward expediting the process and make it possible to stop the violence as soon as possible."

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Cristiani] "Only the UN representative can make announcements of that nature. Right now, as he has said, UN mediator De Soto plays a more active role in the talks."

[Hurtado] Regarding the amendment to Article 17, which was approved by the Legislative Assembly and which was objected to by Alder [not further identified], Cristiani said:

[Cristiani] "First, I believe that there should be a formula to guarantee a consensus. I do not believe that this point should be manipulated, because it affects efforts by all the legally registered parties to develop a consensus and not pursue confrontation in the country. The benefits will be for the country and not for anyone in particular. I consider it positive for the Salvadoran society to sit down and reach a consensus."

"In my opinion, this point should be seriously discussed and I believe that the objective is more important than any differences that may arise. I believe that political parties are capable of analyzing the situation and reconciling the interests of political parties, the media, and the Salvadoran people and finding a solution. I would prefer a positive, not negative, attitude in trying to find a solution for this problem."

[Hurtado] Concerning the possibility of a cease-fire by the Army, President Cristiani said:

[Cristiani] "We are always ready for a cease-fire. We have continuously and permanently stated that the best way to create adequate conditions for an overall and final solution to the conflict would be to put an end to the violence. We publicly expressed this at the United Nations in October of this year and we have maintained the same position."

[Hurtado] President Cristiani also referred to the latest reports on UN criticism of the Salvadoran Government over a lack of respect for human rights.

[Cristiani] "We saw the report prepared by (Dr. Pastor Libreto), the UN observer on human rights in El Salvador, and I really do not view it as criticism adverse to the Salvadoran Government. I see it as an account of what is happening in the country."

"His preliminary report, which is usually the one that is approved, states that he does not view what is happening in El Salvador to be a product of government policies. The report also makes known efforts the government is making to prevent certain situations in the country. The report points out that the signing of an agreement on human rights within the framework of the peace process is a very positive event. We believe that this agreement is yielding fruit. Perhaps we still do not have an acceptable situation in the country, but the process is heading in the right direction—toward improvement."

"So, I do not see the report as criticism of the government. I see it as related to what is happening in the country."

[Hurtado] President Cristiani also referred to the position of the church. The church has stated some criticism with regard to the Armed Forces issue, the issue that is obstructing the dialogue.

[Cristiani] "I would like to make a clarification because I have seen some reports that are not completely true, and I do not know what is needed to make the government's position understood."

"First of all, we have never said that the Armed Forces issue is not negotiable. As a matter of fact, much has been negotiated on that issue. What we have said from the beginning is that the dissolution of the Armed Forces of El Salvador is not up for negotiation with the FMLN."

"This is a position understood by national and international sectors, except those that are more congenial with the FMLN. The position is that the country's institutionality is based on conditions beyond negotiations with the FMLN. We have clearly stated, though, that the armed

institution, which now is ready to defend the country in the face of an armed conflict, would have to be restructured when the setting is one of peace and democracy. We have been prepared to discuss a qualitative and quantitative restructuring of the Armed Forces."

"I personally do not believe that this position can be described as fair or unfair. We have been open-minded in this regard. The truth is that the government has clearly explained its position with regard to the restructuring of the Armed Forces to prepare it for a period of peace and democracy in the country."

[Hurtado] At the end of the news conference, President Cristiani sent a message to the YSKL listeners.

[Cristiani] "Warm greetings to the listeners of YSKL. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to wish the YSKL family a merry Christmas and a prosperous 1991, hoping that the new year will bring more benefits for all the Salvadoran people. We believe the Christmas season to be one for meditation, for getting closer to the family and God. I hope He will help us next year."

Guatemala

URNG 'Pronouncement' on Electoral Process

PA2012214490 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Dec 90 p 6

["Pronouncement" issued by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, General Command in Guatemala City on 27 November]

[Text] The end of the first phase of the electoral process confirms the limitations of the country's political system and, despite manipulation and propaganda, presents us with very clear signs of what, in turn, opens a very complex and dangerous stage.

The URNG General Command believes that it is important to address the national and international communities with the purpose of broaching the country's current situation.

The electoral process proves three important things:

1. The practice of an ill-named democracy that only utilizes formal mechanisms to present and legalize itself, has exhibited its representative and participative inefficiency during this election.

We are still far from a real, functional, and participative democracy. This was clearly evidenced in the absence of real democratic options, the predominance of minority sectors representative of the powerful interests that are contrary to the rights of the vast majorities, and the total absence of programs that seek solutions to the serious problems of the country.

2. All this occurs within the framework of generalized repression by the Army and other state organizations that, on the fringe of the government's policy, maintain a growing regime of terror and crude violation of human rights.

3. The apathy and rejection for the elections are expressed by the high percentage of the population that did not register to vote, and the high percentage that registered but did not vote. These are signs of repudiation and lack of trust in light of the fact that a real democracy is lacking in Guatemala.

The results of these elections proves there is a need for deep change and a search for new methods. To insist on formalities and to attempt to cover up the situation with those formalities further worsens the already damaged situation of the country and hinders its development along a truly democratic path.

Every day more and more groups feel the effects of and understand our critical national reality. They are aware of the urgent need for these changes. That is why it is very important to understand and comprehend the great historic lesson taught by the recent elections.

The elections are characterized by a ritual that do not benefit the people's interests and they create an uncertain future for the country instead of providing stability and hope. They objectively create, in all society, a feeling of insecurity and they reflect a lack of democratic, representative, and participatory options.

There are great threats to the construction of democracy. These are very objective and specific threats because the electoral process serves as a distracting element to cover up pressures and demands from opposing groups within the Army, and to cover up operational and repressive plans aimed at silencing the people's voices and at obstructing the search for a just and democratic political solution. The elections are aimed at preserving a regime that nationally and internationally stirs up everyone's rebuke.

Because of the reasons mentioned above, the URNG General Command warns about extensive military plans that the Army's High Command has prepared and implemented to launch a repressive escalation against the civilian population in areas of conflict and intense operations against URNG fronts. To accomplish this, the Army has since October conducted careful preparations aimed at guaranteeing a concentration of forces and of all kinds of military equipment.

The launching of this offensive by the Army High Command will expand and intensify the war. The URNG forces are calmly preparing to face it and to defeat it.

The URNG General Command warns that the situation will tend to worsen as long as the government does not undertake essential changes to the system of militarization, repression, and violation of human rights, through which the established powers try to halt the just struggle and aspirations of the Guatemalan people.

The URNG General Command rejects the warmongering and recalcitrant positions recently adopted by the Army High Command to evade the path to dialogue for a political solution.

To ignore the Oslo Agreement and to undertake elusive maneuvers makes one doubt the level of political will and shows the need to demand a review of the High Command's position which, in addition, does not express the aspirations of sectors of the Army and which goes against the will of broad sectors of Guatemalan society and international opinion, which support the dialogue process.

The URNG General Command clarifies that it has not undertaken any military action to boycott the elections. It has fully kept its promise not to oppose the elections, as formulated in the El Escorial Agreement. Our call to ask the people not to vote is based on a political position that expresses the feeling of a majority of the sectors of our population and falls within the framework of the exercise of democracy.

The URNG General Command reiterates that operations intended to affect the infrastructure of roads and power lines are based on the need to hamper and disperse numerous repressive forces, forcing them to protect those parts of the infrastructure, therefore preventing their deployment against the civilian population in the areas of conflict.

The increase in repression and the lack of effective condemnation—which will lead to a halt of generalized repression—forces us to resort to these operations as a defensive measure. We have stated this prior to beginning such operations. We urge the people not to be confused by the government and Army propaganda about them.

The URNG General Command urges broad sectors of the country, which have expressed their desire and determination to seek a political solution, to join efforts and to be watchful so as not to permit turning back to the already begun process of national consensus to build democracy and peace in Guatemala.

The URNG General Command reaffirms its desire to seek, through dialogue, the path to a political solution to our country's armed conflict.
[Signed] URNG General Command
Commander Rolando Moran
Commander Pablo Monsanto
Commander Gaspar Ilom
Carlos Gonzalez, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Guatemalan Labor Party
[Dated] Guatemala, 27 November 1990

Nun Allowed To Participate in Kidnap-Rape Case

PA2012015590 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Dec 90 pp 2, 56

[Text] President Vinico Cerezo has made a formal commitment to a group of U.S. legislators to allow Diana Ortiz, a nun, to take part in the investigations to ascertain who kidnapped and raped her.

This was reported by Democratic Congressman Rick Boucher, who explained that the president had offered the commitment the day they met at the National Palace.

Human rights prosecutor Ramiro de Leon Carpio made a similar commitment, and Boucher said that this attitude is considered positive in the investigation, because previously, Diana Ortiz had been barred from taking part in the investigation. It is publicly known that in mid-1990 she was kidnapped in La Antigua Guatemala and was freed in Mixco after she had been beaten and raped.

The case has become a controversial issue between the church and the government. In fact, official circles say that there was no such kidnapping, but the U.S. congressman fully verified the incident, and said that the nun had been the victim of blows and burns on several parts of her body and had been raped.

The version made know thus far is that the nun's human rights were violated by policemen driving a police car.

The U.S. congressman, who came to Guatemala with colleagues to study the human rights situation in Guatemala—specifically the case of anthropologist Mirna Mack—was given assurances that the investigations are in a very advanced stage and that those responsible may be arrested at any time.

The U.S. congressman said that U.S. Ambassador Thomas Strook had indicated that the embassy maintains a constant watch to expedite the trial of the soldiers who killed Dr. Devine, a U.S. doctor who lived in Peten Department.

Honduras

Legislative Assembly Approves Partial Amnesty

PA2112013590

[Editorial Report] The San Pedro Sula Spanish-language newspaper TIEMPO on page 3 of its 15 December issue carries a report stating that "the Legislative Assembly, controlled by the National Party of Honduras [PNH] faction, has approved a partial amnesty of approximately 300 peasants accused of taking land illegally. The opposition parties and human rights groups had demanded a general amnesty for political prisoners."

According to the newspaper, the government deputies asserted that "there are no political prisoners in Honduras." After devoting most of the report to detailing the debate which resulted in the decree declaring the partial amnesty, the newspaper says that the decree "includes a paragraph stipulating that any foreigners who benefit from the amnesty will leave the counntry one week after their release." In addition, "the rejection of the general amnesty brought tears and grief to the relatives of political prisoners, who even insulted the PNH deputies for their decision."

Another page three report of same newspaper states that "the political prisoners in the Central Penitentiary yesterday denounced the partial amnesty approved by the Honduran Congress and charged that it is the making of an ultra-rightist government." The report ends by quoting a 24-year-old political prisoner: "What has been made evident with all this," he states, "is that human rights are still being violated, regardless of the president's pretty words, which judging from what we have seen, are gone with the wind."

Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish in its 18 December edition carries on page two a report according to which "the vice president of the Honduran Congress, Teofilo Martell, stated yesterday that there are no political prisoners in the country and this is why an amnesty that benefits arrested peasants was approved."

The newspaper reports that this congressman has maintained that "the amnesty favors peasants who have participated in land invasions, but not political prisoners, because there is none in any Honduran prison."

According to EL HERALDO, Martell explained: "If a bomb that kills people is placed in any given place, this cannot be seen as a political action, but as a crime."

Nicaragua

Chamorro: Cabinet Resignations by 10 Jan

PA2012133590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1243 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] President Chamorro requested the resignation of her ministers on 19 December. The president told her ministers and directors of government institutions: Thank you for everything. I want your resignations, however, by 10 January, and I do not want anybody to be upset with my request.

President Chamorro announced her unexpected request during a cabinet meeting, saying she wanted their resignations by 10 January. The president thanked the ministers and directors for their help, requested they not get upset, and said that many changes would be made in the government as of 10 January. She also told the mayors of Region 6 that the municipalities of Gali, La Concordia, and San Rafael would be incorporated administratively.

Strikers Dislodged From Telcor Facilities

PA2012141990 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Journalists from BARRICADA, Channel 6, the "Extravision" newscast, Radio Corporation, and other media were attacked at Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services] last night by paramilitary men directed by Telcor Deputy Minister Ernesto Robleto.

This difficult situation occurred when Robleto arrived with several paramilitary men headed by the famous

"Rencolina"—an infamous Telcor official under the Somoza dictatorship—to dislodge, with police support, employees who had paralyzed the Villa Fontana telephone exchange in Managua. "Rencolina" ordered the attack while journalists were filming the incident. Meanwhile, Robleto was shouting at everyone, particularly workers supporting social demands in Region 4.

Strike Continues in Region 4

PA2012145290 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1240 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services] strike in Region 4, which is totally incommunicado, continues. Telecommunications with Region 4 have been completely paralyzed since the Telcor workers there decided to continue the strike they began 18 days ago to demand better labor and economic benefits.

The Telcor offices in Region 4 are still occupied by the workers, who have been repeatedly threatened with a forceful dislodgement by the Telcor authorities. Ramon Pena Suaso, labor leader of the National Union of Employees of Telcor in Granada, gives details about the Telcor strike in Region 4.

[Begin recording] [Pena] They have tried to buy the workers' conscience by telling them that all those who return to work will receive their salary for December. The workers, however, have refused to accept those paychecks unless the Telcor administration sits down to talk with the Telcor workers commission in Region 4 and the Telcor National Workers Federation.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the telecommunications situation in Region 4?

[Pena] After six days of strikes, telecommunications have been completely cut off. Only the Army and Police installations, hospitals, health centers, and Sinacoi [Fire Prevention System] facilities have telephone communications. We cut off the telecommunications system after the sixth day of strike, but the Telcor minister cut off microwave communications in Granada and Masaya Departments. This is why Region 4, which includes Masaya and Granada Departments, cannot communicate with the rest of the country. Those who have telephone services in these areas can only communicate locally.

Jinotepe and Rivas have microwave communications because Telcor could not cut them off without cutting off communications in Region 2.

[Reporter] Ramon, tell us where the striking workers are. Are they inside the Telcor offices?

[Pena] The workers have been inside the Telcor offices since we started the strike. We have kept the doors open. We simply tell the people that we are on strike and that we are not providing any services because of the situation caused by the intransigent position of the Telcor administration.

[Reporter] What should people in Region 4 do in case they need to send an urgent telegram or make an urgent telephone call?

[Pena] The truth of the matter is that there are no communications. There is no service to send any telegram, because we are all on strike. Region 4 is incommunicado. [end recording]

Telephone Service Partially Restored

PA2012173590 Paris AFP in Spanish 1616 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Managua, 20 Dec (AFP)—Telephone service was partially restored in Nicaragua today following the intervention of a group of scabs in the strike whereby Sandinist workers cut off the country's communications for more than five hours on 19 December.

Authorities from Telcor, Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute, asked the police to evacuate the strikers last night and to resume national and international service.

The most vital areas were under the supervision of the strike-breakers today, while employees from the institute, some 4,500, were sent off to enjoy early Christmas vacations in an apparent attempt to demobilize the strikers.

Nearly 100 employees who joined the strike that began on 17 December gathered at the Jorge Navarro building in Managua today to decide on the fate of the strike.

In this regard Mario Malespin, secretary general of the labor union on strike, told AFP that "we are studying possible actions so that the strike can be felt." The strike had been declared illegal by the authorities.

Telcor employees are demanding a 20-40 percent wage increase, a Christmas bonus, and other benefits, as well as the guarantee that no reprisals will be taken.

The negotiations between both sides were still bogged down today and the conflict was in danger of worsening.

Institute To Resume Talks

PA2012202390 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1939 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Communique issued by the Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute in Managua on 20 December—read by announcer]

[Text] In view of the fact that the Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute] installations that had been seized in Granada, Masaya, Jinotepe, Diriamba, and Rivas were returned today, the

institution's administrators invite all the employees to return to work as soon as possible.

We have also informed the Labor Ministry that we are now willing to resume the negotiations that were suspended when our offices were seized, so as to revise the collective agreements and the different lists of petitions that have been presented by both the unions and the management.

[Signed] Pablo Vigil Icaza, Telcor Minister-Director

[Dated] Managua, 20 December

Labor Union Issues Statement

PA2112022190 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2340 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Statement by the workers of the Telecommunications and Postal Services of Carazo Department in Jinotepe on 20 December]

[Text] We, the Telecommunications and Postal Services [Telcor-Carazo] workers, affiliated with the Carazo branch of the Telcor Independent labor union [Sindicato Independiente Telcor-Carazo], Sintel, hereby report to the people that the police dislodged striking Telcor workers from the Telcor building in Jinotepe at predawn today.

Pablo Narvaez Cruz, delegate from the Carazo branch of Telcor, and 45 workers are at the National Confederation of Professional Associations branch in Carazo. All of them have been willing at all times to return to work. At approximately 1100 a police patrol showed up looking for the delegate from the independent labor union. The delegate was taken to the Telcor facilities. Once he arrived, however, a very angry verbal exchange took place. One of the strike leaders, Ana Alvarez Gonzalez, charged that blackmail and pressure had been applied. This lady made slanderous and ill-advised accusations and refused to turn over the facilities unless the workers decided to stay and work. [sentence as heard]

The delegate rejected this because the strike had been declared illegal and the leaders are on trial. [sentence as heard] Consequently, the position of the strikers was unacceptable. The strike leaders said that if the workers affiliated with the independent union showed up for work, they would be immediately removed by force.

We wish to report that this exchange took place in the presence of policemen. We also report to the people and the proper authorities that as long as the strikers remain close to the facilities, we will not go to work, unless the police dislodge them from the vicinity. We also wish to point out that when the delegate was taken to the Telcor facilities, he asked that the manager accompany him. The police flatly refused and told him that he must go in by himself.

Jinotepe, 20 December.

Ortega on 'Pressure' From U.S. Officials

PA2012231590 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 20 Dec 90

[From the "Extravision" newscast]

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, former president of the Republic, in statements to foreign journalists, reported today that U.S. Embassy officials have been putting pressure on UNO [National Opposition Union] officials so that they will vote against the presidential veto. Former President Ortega also reported that UNO deputies have been warned about what will happen to them if they do not vote against President Chamorro.

Bomb Explodes at UNO Deputy's Building

PA2012203790 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The building where National Opposition Unity [UNO] Deputy Adilia Siria lives in Chinandega was shaken at 0300 today by the explosion of a bomb which had been placed beside one of the windows. The window was completely destroyed by the explosion and the owner of the building immediately began an investigation to find out who was responsible. The evidence seems to indicate that the culprits are members of the Benedict family, who live at the Roberto Gonzalez neighborhood and is responsible for placing bombs in several buildings throughout the city. Members of the police have arrived at the building and are gathering evidence.

Panama

Leaders Interviewed on Invasion Anniversary

Arias Calderon Comments

PA2012182890 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1425 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Interview with Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and government and justice minister, by Omaira de Leon de Watson in Panama City on 20 December—recorded]

[Text] [De Leon] Today, 20 December, has been declared a day of national reflection. Give us a brief message of reflection for all Panamanians on this day.

[Arias Calderon] The 20th of December was a day of trauma for our country. It was the most serious trauma caused by the dictatorship. The foreign military action, which led to the death of nearly 500 Panamanians and brought about the destruction of Panamanian property, was provoked by the dictatorship. It was a great trauma; however, even traumatic events in history can bring about great changes. This was our case. The end of the dictatorship and the beginning of democracy was a trauma that brought about a liberation. I believe that

while looking at the 20 December trauma we must take full advantage of the liberation it brought. We must try to find new horizons, new hopes, and new possibilities.

This is why the government wanted to declare this day as a day of national reflection, not only of human reflection, but also of spiritual and religious reflection. It is a day to pray. It is a day to ask ourselves before God what we can do so that we do not ever again have to live through a similar experience of dictatorship and military actions, with all of their consequences. We should never have to begin from almost zero again.

I would also say, Omaira, that it is a day to renew certain attitudes, three basic attitudes. First, an attitude of faith in ourselves. The dictatorship left us without faith in ourselves. We should renew our faith and our ability as a people to resolve our own problems and make our own history. We also need to have an attitude of hope. The dictatorship's outlook was that each morning we would be worse off than the previous night, and we acquired a habit of pessimism. Let us return to our hopes of better days. We must have confidence in ourselves that we can achieve our goals. We must feel that hope is stronger than difficulties. The third attitude is that we need to renew our brotherly feelings for each other as Panamanians. With this brotherhood in mind, we should learn to cooperate with one another. It seems that the attitude left by the dictatorship—because of its divisions, because of its permanent confrontations, and because of the hatred it unleashed—is the attitude of confrontation among Panamanians, making it difficult for us to cooperate with one another. We must renew a sense of cooperation.

Let us hope that this day of reflection, both a traumatic day and a day of liberation, will allow us to live with more faith, with more hope, and with a greater feeling of fraternity.

Ford Reflects on Citizens' Needs

PA2012192190 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1415 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Interview with Guillermo Ford, second vice president and minister of planning and economic policy, by Omaira De Leon de Watson in Panama City on 20 December—recorded]

[Text] [Ford] I believe that in general terms the Panamanian people feel free. We must respond to the people's needs, which I will try to summarize: (1) Peace and tranquillity, with security; (2) The opportunity to have a dignified and decent job, so that all Panamanians can feel they are part of society; and (3) The swift eradication of the extreme poverty we are currently facing in Panama.

In general terms, I would say that the government has tried with the few resources available to act with honesty, to provide strong leadership for economic recovery, and most important to me, to live in freedom and democracy.

[De Leon] Mr. Minister, one of the greatest expectations the Panamanian people had was the U.S. economic aid. Can you tell us what the status of this is?

[Ford] I must say that there were great expectations about U.S. economic aid. This aid was delayed because of bureaucratic procedures related to its approval by the U.S. Congress. Its implementation in Panama was also delayed by procedures stipulated in the Fiscal Code, which specifies that it must be approved by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy, by the cabinet, and the National Assembly's Budget Commission.

We must look at the positive aspects, however. Although a large part of that aid has not been implemented, the economy has been recovering. This shows two things: First, that Panamanian businessmen and the labor sector want to look at the future with hope. It means that we have seen how the country has been reconstructed by businessmen with their own resources and with the enthusiasm shown by the labor sector. To a certain extent it is possible that the delay has made us Panamanians realize that we have the intellectual capacity, preparation, seriousness, and necessary resources. In addition, on 10 July of this year we managed to successfully normalize the banking situation in Panama, against all odds. We placed bank deposits that had been frozen for 30 months at the disposal of their original owners. This has resulted in the normalization of banking activities, and consequently of commercial activities.

Hence, I believe that U.S. aid will be an additional injection which will contribute to advance what we have already begun. We have demonstrated to ourselves and the world that we are capable of standing up by ourselves without anyone's help. As I said, I believe that the U.S. aid will be an additional injection to boost the process we have already started.

[De Leon] Another question, Mr. Minister. In analyzing the government's work so far, do you think there is anything that should be corrected, any faults?

[Ford] I think that there are many things that should be corrected. I want to be as frank as always. First of all—I am not blaming any specific sector, as I recognize the limitations that exist—we are all demanding a more expeditious implementation of justice. There have been problems. The Penal Code causes delays, as it permits defense lawyers to resort to mechanisms that delay the trials. In that regard, I have seen with satisfaction that the Supreme Court of Justice through its distinguished president has proposed a number of legal amendments to expedite the legal proceedings. I would not like to see the Panamanian people seeking revenge. We do want to see those who we believe have violated the law and human rights judged, however. I believe that the slowness of justice—which results from the current system we have in Panama—must be accelerated by eliminating all the

obstacles. We must give the people the satisfaction of seeing those who violated the law, those who committed atrocities against the people and the fatherland, called to trial soon.

On another subject, economic growth has been slower than I had expected. I can anticipate that economic growth will be around six percent this year, however. To some people, this may not mean anything. If we compare it to a negative growth of 18 percent in 1989, however, we realize that new jobs are being created. We have noticed a reactivation in the private sector, specifically in the construction sector which offers more jobs. There was a time when there were 30,000 construction workers. Based on the information we have, a number of important projects will begin in the dry season, which will offer more jobs for the Panamanian people.

[De Leon] Today, 20 December, has been declared a day of national reflection. What is your message to the Panamanian people on this occasion?

[Ford] I believe the cabinet made a very good decision when declaring today a day of national reflection. Let us think and go back one year. What did we have on 19 December 1989? Let us try to imagine where we and our country would be now if Manuel Antonio Noriega were still here as absolute master and owner of the actions, thoughts, and behavior of all Panamanians. We would be a disaster. Panamanians would be fighting against each other to try to attain freedom and democracy.

I have said this frankly and unhesitatingly before. Perhaps the transition period did not take place as we would have wanted. We were legitimately elected by the Panamanian people on 7 May 1989, and I personally would have wanted the transition toward democracy to have taken place under different circumstances. It is the historian's responsibility—and not that of those who played a role in these events—to judge the 20 December actions and the actions and decisions that the three of us, President Endara and his two vice presidents, had to make.

We had two choices: either turn our backs on the Panamanian people who trusted us, and just sit back to wait and see what happened; or else assume our historic responsibility at an extremely difficult and serious time, which made us think very deeply about the country's future. We chose to assume the responsibility. Let history judge us. Let it condemn or exonerate us. If I had to do this under the same circumstances all over again, however, I would do the same thing. I will never turn my back on the Panamanian people. In the most difficult moments of this country, those who claim to be its leaders must prove their love for the homeland and their strength of character by supporting and obeying the people's mandate and by leading the people along the best possible course.

1989 U.S. Invasion Reviewed, Assessed

Editorial Calls for Public Support

PA2012142690 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 16 Dec 90 p 4 A

[Editorial: "Freedom with Order"]

[Text] Freedom has returned to Panama once again, after an entire generation. Electronic and printed media, some of which had been closed down for years, have reopened and are working normally. Every day we see evidence that the right to hold public meetings is being exercised.

The red tape and restrictions that the administrative authorities, and more so the Panama Defense Forces, imposed on even the slightest exercise of freedom have disappeared. The G-2, as an espionage and torture unit, has been destroyed. The homes of honest people are no longer being searched illegally, without a warrant.

Nevertheless, during the past few days we have witnessed demonstrations that have been allowed to obstruct free movement of traffic and prevent many Panamanians from carrying out their Christmas shopping in peace.

Because we here at EL PANAMA AMERICA have been the victims of the most indescribable abuses in the past, and because there are still certain authorities bent on obstructing the normal flow of our daily work, we take the defense of the individual rights we recovered with the disappearance of the narcotyranny as a very serious matter.

Consequently, with the same resolve and moral strength, we oppose the rock-throwing and the use of violence against the police, the authorities, and innocent citizens.

We have witnessed the destruction of private and public property with concern and indignation, because we are aware of all that has to be done and of the limited resources in the public treasury to accomplish it.

We are sorry to have to admit that certain sectors lack the community spirit and the slightest feeling of patriotism. There are people closely connected to the old regime who remember dearly the times when they were the absolute owners of the country. Because they have abundant economic resources—a product of 21 consecutive years of corruption and theft—they do not hesitate to support and finance those who, because of their anarchist instincts or extreme leftist ideas, wish to bring ruin and destruction to Panama. In view of this situation, which is visible to all, we make an urgent call for all Panamanians who desire the well-being and prosperity of the country to join us in reiterating our support for the police authorities, who are engaged in the difficult task of guaranteeing order and safety within a climate of freedom.

'Black March' Commemorates Day

PA2112012990 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0006 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The Association of Relatives of the Fallen of 20 December [Asociacion de Familiares de los Caidos del 20 de Diciembre] held a demonstration this afternoon, which they called the Black March, in memory of the events that took place one year ago. The peaceful demonstration was held one year after the U.S. military intervention overthrew the regime of former dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega, who was detained and charged in the United States with drug trafficking. The march left El Carmen Church, went down Espana and Central Avenues, and concluded at 27th Street in the Chorrillo neighborhood.

Policemen in cars followed the Black March closely while a helicopter flew overhead. Well-known personalities who worked in the dictatorship government of Manuel Antonio Noriega were seen taking part in the march. Meanwhile, the government ordered that all public offices remain closed today and called it a Day of Reflection. Last night President Guillermo Endara blamed Noriega for the invasion, and said that the invasion was the logical and predictable result of misgovernment, abuse, disrespect for human dignity, false nationalism, and demagoguery.

Argentina

Cavallo Comments on Shevardnadze's Resignation

PY2012145290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1415 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Rome, 20 Dec (TELAM)—Commenting today on Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation, Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said "it is very worrying" because "it may be a setback in the process that seeks to insert the USSR in a new, more peaceful and cooperative world order."

Cavallo said: "To avoid possible stagnation or a crisis in the changes that the perestroyka process entails, the Western world must increase its support for the courageous reforms implemented by Mikhail Gorbachev, who was helped by Shevardnadze."

Cavallo made this statement to the press today following the morning meeting of the foreign ministers of the EEC and the Rio Group, of which Argentina and other Latin American countries are members.

Cavallo: Relations With Great Britain Improving

PY2012152490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2130 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Dec (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has stated that John Major's designation as British prime minister, replacing Margaret Thatcher, "has ratified a very positive tendency" in Argentine-U.K. bilateral relations.

According to an ANSA cable datelined Rome, Cavallo will participate in the meeting that the Rio Group will hold with EEC foreign ministers in Rome during which they will seek ways to achieve some progress at the next GATT meeting. He stressed "the progress" achieved with Great Britain.

Argentine Ambassador to the United Kingdom Mario Campora has expressed a similar feeling. In a telephone conversation with TELAM, Campora said bilateral relations "are moving smoothly" and that they represent "a continuation of the tendency that will favor the process of economic changes in Argentina."

Campora said that Major's designation "has not changed the situation whatsoever," and agreed with Cavallo in that "the good administration" of Foreign Office [preceding two words in English] Secretary Douglas Hurd "has helped us to achieve some progress regarding many issues."

Cavallo added that the good relations with Great Britain will help Argentina improve the channels of dialogue with the EEC. He also praised the work carried out by Major during Thatcher's administration toward the reestablishment of Argentine-British relations.

In conclusion, Campora referred to the agreement signed this afternoon in London that will permit the renegotiation of the Argentine foreign debt to the United Kingdom and will facilitate the granting of new credits to exports of British goods.

Debt Renegotiation Agreement Signed With U.K.

PY2012163690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2103 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Dec (TELAM)—Argentina and Great Britain today signed an agreement on the renegotiation of the debt that our country owes to London. The agreement provides for "the repayment of pending obligations," and aims at turning Great Britain into "one of the most important markets" for Argentine exports.

The agreement was signed this afternoon (London time) by Argentine Ambassador Mario Campora and by Adrian Beamish, under secretary of the British Foreign Office [name and title as received], and it was negotiated by Argentine Deputy Economy Minister Carlos Carballo.

In a phone conversation with TELAM, Campora said that the agreement is "a gesture of confidence toward the government of Carlos Menem," adding that the agreement will allow "British state banks to grant new credits to British companies for the exportation of goods to Argentina."

In this regard, he noted that "over the past six months, Argentine exports to Great Britain amounted to $30 million per month." He predicted that, if this trends continues, Great Britain "will become one of the main markets for our country, surpassing Germany and Italy."

Responding to a question, Campora emphasized that the agreement "will allow British state banks to grant new credits to British exporters."

Even though Campora did not report the amount of the debt that Argentina owes to Great Britain—because the debt is broken down into several sectors—he said that the terms of the renegotiation "are very advantageous for our country," adding that the agreement "is a significant gesture of confidence."

The agreement, which was called "debt conciliation," was negotiated in London between 10 and 13 December by Carballo, who a few days ago began to negotiate a similar agreement with Spain.

Hercules Airplane To Be Sent to Persian Gulf

PY2012135290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2224 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (TELAM)—According to military sources, in the next few days an Argentine Air Force airplane will be sent to the Persian Gulf zone

carrying an Argentine Navy Alouette helicopter to replace one that operated from the Admiral Brown destroyer.

As soon as a budget is allocated, the Air Force will send a Hercules C-130 airplane belonging to the 1st Air Brigade seated in El Palomar, Buenos Aires Province. Its destination will be the airport of the United Arab Emirates.

One and [?a half] months ago, the Alouette helicopter that operates from the Admiral Brown destroyer suffered a technical failure while on a flight over the Gulf of Oman, near the Strait of Hormuz.

The helicopter crashed into the water but its crew were not harmed. Thanks to a floating chamber installed during a technical stopover in France, the aircraft was recovered. The impact, however, damaged several components and this has prevented the the aircraft from flying again.

It was initially thought that the helicopter would be repaired abroad, and spare parts were sent from Argentina, but it is nearly certain that the Hercules airplane will bring it back to Argentina so that it may be repaired in the Puerto Belgrano Navy shipyards.

Police Raid Two 'Painted Faces' Meeting Sites

PY2112001090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1252 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Dec (NA)—A morning newspaper reported today that federal police raided at least two offices in the capital where the Painted Faces—followers of Retired Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin—presumably held their meetings. One of the offices is on the fourth floor of a building at 1017 Reconquista Street, and the other is on the second floor at 1029 Posadas Street, both near the Retiro area.

The offices were raided in response to remarks made to the Armed Forces Supreme Council by Major Hugo Abete, for whom the military prosecutor has requested capital punishment.

According to a CLARIN report published today, the office on Reconquista Street had been used as a security agency, according to the man in charge of the building. He also noted that it was rented some five months ago, although he could not give the name of the lessor.

The office on Posadas Street was rented by Alejandro Seija who, according to a list released by the executive branch with the names of people presumably involved in the uprising, is reportedly the owner of a chain of gas stations.

Judicial sources have revealed that several documents and books with names and addresses were found during the raids ordered by Federal Judge Miguel Pons, but no weapons." [no opening quotation mark as received]

Carlos Granero, vice president of the Elevage Hotel, admitted that Seineldin had lunch there on several occasions, "like any of the political figures who dine at the hotel." Granero explained, however, that "we did not provide any special service for him."

According to the newspaper report, Judge Pons, who holds the documents on Major Abete's statement, ordered the raids between Tuesday and yesterday.

The police had to use force to get into the apartment on Reconquista Street, the door of which was covered by a metal sheet.

Officials Comment on Links to Military Rebels

PY2112020490 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Dec 90 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—While a number of politicians declared themselves against the death penalty for carapintada [painted faces] ringleaders, certain government officials tried to extricate themselves from allegations of carapintada sympathies yesterday.

The allegations surfaced in testimony before the Armed Forces Supreme Council by Major Hugo Abete, who said rebel leader retired colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin met with, among other government officials, Justice Secretary Cesar Arias, Defence Minister Humberto Romero, Defence Undersecretary Julio Dentone and SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] state intelligence chief Hugo Anzorregui.

Arias confirmed the meetings yesterday, but said they were purely informative, to determine the causes of "previous uprisings."

Interviewed on a Radio Continental news programme yesterday, Arias said he "never thought" the carapintadas would go "so far."

"As members of government we could never encourage such madness," he said.

His last meeting with Seineldin had been "a few months before" the uprising, Arias added, although he could not remember the exact date.

Neither could Arias remember if Major Abete, who along with Seineldin and three other Army officers faces the death penalty, participated in the meetings.

Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde also played down supposed links between the Army rebels and Peronist government officials. "It doesn't seem odd to me that the defence minister should meet with high-ranking military officers," Duhalde said. [passage omitted]

Army Reports Vehicle Movements for 21 Dec

PY2112021090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2244 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Dec (TELAM)—The Army General Staff has reported that two columns of Army vehicles carrying personnel and equipment will be moving tomorrow from the La Tablada barracks to the El Libertador Building and from the Palermo barracks to La Tablada.

To prevent the people from becoming alarmed, the Army reported that these deployments will take place early tomorrow. No time has yet been set for the return of these vehicles to their respective units.

Brazil

Foreign Minister Criticizes Americas' Initiative

PY2012115690 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Dec 90 Economy Section p 3

[Text] Brasilia—Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek yesterday admitted that the country is going through a recession. "This recessive moment was inevitable," said Rezek at the Planalto Palace press room after conferring with President Fernando Collor on the promotion of diplomats. The minister believes that the government must immediately find a solution for that "difficult situation," although he considered that the economic team is on the right track.

Rezek emphasized that he has never heard a consistent criticism of the Collor Plan. "The criticism of the government is merely cosmetic," he assessed. The foreign minister said that he believes there are just complaints about some personal attitudes and about the government's methods.

Rezek again criticized the Americas' Initiative, U.S. President George Bush's plan for Latin America's integration. After reminding us that Brazil "has never been so close to its neighbors," Rezek emphasized that the Americas' Initiative is limited to the creation of a free trade zone. "It is less ambitious than our project on Latin American integration," he stressed, complaining that the Bush plan discards the transfer of technology and the foreign debt negotiations.

Despite the fact that the Uruguay Round of the GATT did not reach an agreement and that the negotiations have been deferred until January 1991, Rezek stressed that "no result is better than an unfavorable result." He did not say whether President Fernando Collor will attend the GATT meeting. Collor will go to Geneva in early February 1991 where he will visit the Red Cross headquarters at the same time that the new GATT talks are to be held. A few days before, the president will participate in the World Economic Forum [three preceding words in English] in Davos, Switzerland. He will also visit Bern.

Collor Holds Talks With Cuba's Diaz-Balart

PY1812180890 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Report by Lourival Macedo from Planalto Palace]

[Text] Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission and son of President Fidel Castro, today discussed Latin American integration with President Fernando Collor at Planalto Palace. Diaz-Balart arrived at the palace with Cuban Ambassador to Brazil Jorge Bolanos.

During the nearly 20-minute meeting, the most discussed topic was Latin American integration. Diaz-Balart said Cuba is very interested in maintaining good relations with other South American countries and noted that the best way to achieve this goal is to work for Latin American integration. He announced that his country has begun similar talks with Argentina and Mexico.

Diaz-Balart pointed out that many achievements in Cuba, including respect for the rights of women and children and technological developments in various sectors, cannot be denied. He mentioned his desire to intensify Brazilian-Cuban relations, especially in the area of high-technology cooperation. Cuba can offer Brazil expertise in the pharmaceutical sector, particularly in the production of vaccines against meningitis type-B. In exchange Cuba hopes to learn about Brazilian advancement in the fields of biotechnology and nuclear technology for medical use.

Rezek Leaves for Rome To Meet EC Ministers

PY1912143690 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek leaves for Rome tonight to attend a meeting with EC ministers. Rezek said that one of the goals of the trip is to try to revert the position of European countries regarding their subsidies on agriculture, a measure that was not achieved during the GATT meeting in Uruguay [as heard].

[Begin Rezek recording] The situation could change next year, and we will do our best to ensure that it does. This year's negotiations on agricultural subsidies did not succeed because of the position of the West European countries. [end recording]

Rezek denied that his agenda included a visit to Pope John Paul II, but confirmed that a new visit by the Pope to Brazil next year is being discussed with the Vatican. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister reported that there will be no change in the Brazilian foreign policy and added that some efforts will be intensified:

[Begin Rezek recording] We will intensify our efforts to obtain Southern Cone integration; we will continue to respect the U.N. decisions regarding the Middle-East crisis; and we will work for trade and economic rapprochement with other sectors of the world, such as Eastern Europe and other countries. [end recording]

He said that the visit by the son of Cuban President Fidel Castro was aimed at discussing the peaceful use of nuclear energy, which he believes that will yield good results.

Government Appoints New Embraer President

PY2012012090 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Dec 90 Economic and Business Section p 1

[Summary] The government has appointed 40-year-old Joao Cunha, an adviser to Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello, as the new president of the Brazilian Aeronautics Company, Embraer, replacing Ozilio Carlos da Silva, who asked to be relieved.

* Income Distribution Patterns in 1980's Surveyed

91SM0101A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Nov 90 p 11

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—Income concentration increased in Brazil during in the decade of the 1980's. In 1981, 5 percent of the wealthiest Brazilians held 33.4 of the national income. By 1989, that segment of the population had come to control 39.4 percent of the "pie" of wealth produced in Brazil. The poorest 10 percent, who had 0.9 percent of the income, lost one third last year, leaving them with only 0.6 percent. These data were obtained by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) in its National Survey by Sample of Housing Unit (PNAD) conducted in 1989. IBGE President Eduardo Augusto Guimaraes said yesterday that the income concentration measured in 1989 was the highest ever recorded in Brazil. "High inflation rates have benefitted the people with the highest purchasing power, to the detriment of those with lower incomes," he said.

The PNAD is an annual survey taken by the IBGE which does continuing research on topics, such as housing and wage-earner incomes, associated with demographic, educational, social, and economic aspects. Under the 1989 PNAD, the IBGE surveyed 86,000 housing units in all Brazilian states. The Gini index shows the increase in concentration of income and was used to measure the distribution of wealth in Brazil in the IBGE survey. The index ranges from 0 to 1. The closer the result is to zero, the better the distribution of income. In 1981, the Gini index was 0.589. Last year it climbed to 0.652.

According to the IBGE survey, the poorest 10 percent—6.6 million people who receive an income and are over the age of 10—held a 0.6 percent share in national income last year. It was in 1986, when the Cruzado Plan was in effect, that they experienced their biggest percentage increase in the decade—they reached 1 percent. In 1981, their share was 0.9 percent.

The wealthiest 10 percent, who in 1981 had a 46.6 percent share of national income, increased their slice of the pie to 53.2 percent last year. The top 5 percent (a group included among the wealthiest 10 percent), who in 1981 had a 33.4 percent share of national income, were found to have a bigger share last year: 39.4 percent. Those counted among the top 1 percent in terms of income—660,000 people—had a 13 percent share of income in 1981 and, last year, accounted for 17.3 percent. The bottom 50 percent—33 million Brazilians who in 1981 had 13.4 percent of the income, saw their share drop to 10.4 percent in 1989.

The PNAD shows that the bottom 60 percent—39.6 million—earned up to two real minimum wages a month in 1989, a repeat of their 1981 income but less than the money they received in 1986, when they had an income of 2.6 minimum wages a month. The greatest growth in monthly income was experienced by the richest 1 percent, who in 1981 had monthly incomes of 40 minimum wages and last year earned incomes averaging the equivalent of 64.9 minimum monthly wages.

Despite the drop in income for the poorest, and the increase for the richest, average monthly income did rise during the decade. In 1981, it was NCz$442.00. It fell in 1983 and 1984, but resumed its climb in 1985: the average monthly wage then was NCz$435.00. The highest figure was attained in 1986: NCz$654.00. In 1987 and 1988 there was a decline, which was followed by a recovery in 1989, when the average monthly wage rose to NCz$594.00.

IBGE Finds Brazilians Living Better

Despite the low rate of economic growth achieved during the 1980's, the results of the PNAD show that the quality of life of the population improved during that period. During those 10 years, more homes began receiving basic public services such as electricity, water, and garbage collection. Furthermore, there was a reduction in the number of housing units classified as rural.

"Despite everything, we made a little progress," admitted IBGE President Eduardo Augusto Guimaraes. The situation portrayed by the survey, as interpreted by Jose Guilherme Almeida dos Reis, director-general of the institution, shows the effect of the government investments in infrastructure made at the end of the 1970's and beginning of the 1980's before the worsening of the economic crisis "almost completely strangled the ability of governments to carry out projects of social impact."

The chapter of the study that deals with housing conditions also shows that, in the wake of the urbanization

process, apartments as a percentage of the total number of housing units (34.4 million) have increased. In 1981, 7.1 percent of all Brazilian homes consisted of apartments. By 1989, that index had risen to 9.9 percent. The trend is most apparent in the Southeast, the country's most urbanized region.

Even with all the economic difficulties of a decade that was marked by high inflation rates and a slow average economic growth rate, the number of homes classified as rural fell from 9.9 percent of the total to 5.8 percent. Other signs of an improvement in the standard of living are the expansion of the proportion of homes having electric lighting (from 74.9 percent in 1981 to 86.9 percent last year), a water filter (51.7 percent to 56.8 percent), a stove (92.6 percent to 95.6 percent), or a refrigerator (56.6 percent to 70.1 percent). In addition, 72,7 percent of Brazilian homes last year were connected to a water mains system, compared with 60.1 percent at the start of the decade, which means there was an expansion of the basic sanitation system. The same was true of garbage collection, which rose from 49.9 percent at the start of the decade to become available to 62.9 percent of homes by the end of the period.

Brazilian Families Shrinking

Brazilian families are getting smaller. This was another of the conclusions reached in the 1989 PNAD, the results of which were released yesterday by the IBGE. In 1981, the average Brazilian family consisted of 4.3 persons. This figure declined to 3.9 in 1989. From 1981 to 1989, the proportion of families with two or fewer persons rose from 22.6 to 25.8 percent, while that of families with three and four persons increased from 38.5 percent to 42.1 percent, and that of families with seven or more persons dropped from 15.7 percent to 9.6 percent.

During the 1980's it was also observed that the percentage of families headed by a woman was rising. In 1981, 16.9 percent of families were headed by women; in 1989, that percentage rose to 20.1 percent.

One of the causes of shrinking family size was the increase in the process of urbanization in the major cities, reports Lenildo Fernandes, director of research for the IBGE. The indicators from the decade of the 1980's show a continuation of the exodus of rural residents to urban areas where there are more resources.

Whereas in 1981, 28.8 percent of the population lived in rural areas, by 1989 that percentage had dropped to 25.7 percent. In 1989, the estimated population of Brazil was 144.29 million, of which 107.23 million are women [as published].

Despite their numerical superiority over men, women still earn less. Average real income from work by women, compared with that of the men, rose by less than three percentage points during the 1980's. In 1981, it represented 50.7 percent of the average level of real income that men received from work, and last year it reached 53.1 percent.

Decline

Illiteracy rates tended to decline in Brazil during the 1980's. While in 1981 the illiteracy rate among persons age seven or over was 24.9 percent, in 1989 it was 20.1 percent. Illiteracy in urban areas fell from 17.5 percent in 1981 to 14.3 percent last year, while in rural areas the decline was from 44.8 percent in 1981 to 38.2 percent in 1989.

According to the PNAD survey, the educational level is rising in Brazil. The population age 10 years or older and having less than one year of schooling slid from 23 percent in 1981 to 19 percent last year. Those who have at least an elementary school education (eight years or more of schooling) increased from 18 percent, to 24 percent last year. In the country as a whole, 34 percent have from four to seven years of schooling, but in the Northeast the largest group, 35 percent, consists of those who either have no education at all, or have less than one year of schooling.

Notwithstanding the improvement in many indicators, Brazil had almost 2 million unemployed people in 1989, and only 59 percent of those who were working had jobs that were formally recorded on their labor cards. On the other hand, 59 percent of Brazilian housing units are owned by their residents and paid for; 7 percent are owned but still being paid for; 20 percent are rented; and 15 percent were furnished under other arrangements.

Demographer Says Decade Not Lost

Even though the Brazilian economy stagnated during the past decade, the new IBGE survey found that those years were not a total loss, according to the analysis done by demographer Jose Alberto Magno de Carvalho, of the Federal University of Minas Gerais. "The public sector has invested in basic sanitation and that has helped counterbalance the tragic situation in the economic area," Carvalho believes.

One of the principal consequences of the investment in the food supply was the drop in infant mortality. According to Carvalho, "the National Institute of Food and Nutrition (INAN) has done a study that proves that there was an improvement in the extent of infant undernourishment and mortality during the past decade."

The report on the PNAD also showed that Brazilian families are having fewer children. "We are almost on the same level as the U.S. and some European countries," says Carvalho. "That is a good sign."

Economist Eduardo Gianetti da Fonseca, professor at the School of Economics and Administration (FEA) at the University of Sao Paulo, calls attention to the fact that per capita income shrunk in Brazil during the 1980's. "From the 1940's to the 1970's the inequality increased but, for better or for worse, per capita income pretty much accompanied that growth," explains Fonseca. "From 1981 and 1989, few people's income grew, and the overwhelming majority of the publication made no gains at all," he said.

[Box]

Gini Indicator Developed by Italians

The Gini index, developed by Italian statisticians, measures the degree of concentration of income by comparing how much of a nation's income is held by the richest and how much by the poorest. The index ranges from zero to one and, the closer it is to zero, the less concentrated income will be. It stands at 0.4 in the developed capitalist countries, such as the United States, Great Britain, and Japan.

Last year Brazil reached the 0.68 level, the highest index of poor income distribution in its recorded history. During the 1960's, the index averaged 0.5. Although the Gini index is a good indicator of the concentration of wealth, it is based on the information provided by the respondents. Economists who specialize in this subject believe that the income of the poor is underestimated: it is unlikely that the worker on the outskirts of the cities is declaring the four or five hens he has in his back yard and which, albeit unreliably, supplement his income a little. Among the wealthier strata of the population, the tendency to underestimate is even greater.

Portrait of Brazil

The following tables present the figures from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics for the decade of the 1980's.

A Changing Population - The number of women and aged persons has increased; there are fewer young people and fewer people live in rural areas. The average number of persons per family dropped from 4.3 to 3.9.

Total Population	1981(119.7 million)	1989(144 million)
	Percentage distribution	
Women	50.4	50.9
Persons under 17	45.0	41.0
The elderly	6.4	7.5
Rural population	29.0	26.0
Families with one or two members	23.0	26.0
Families with more than seven members	16.0	10.0

Quality of Life - The number of homes connected to public utilities has increased.

	Percent	
	1981	1989
Water mains	60	73
Garbage collection	49	63
Electric lighting	75	87
Refrigerator	57	70

*** Concentrated Income - The degree of concentration of income among the wealthiest 5 percent increased during the 1980's and the portion of income held by the poorest 30 percent declined. (Figures in percentages)**

	1981	1989
Wealthiest 5 percent	33.4	39.4
Poorest 30 percent	5.3	4.2
Breakdown by income bracket:		
Above 20 minimum wages	3.2	
From 10 to 20 minimum wages	5.0	
Up to 2 minimum wages	48.6	
Up to 1 minimum wage	27.2**	

* [table as published]
** Data as of 1989
Source: IBGE

Chile

Aylwin Calls Emergency Meeting; Rebellion Denied

Confers With Ministers

PY2012121690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin last night summoned an emergency meeting. Government authorities, legislators, and political leaders were summoned because of the tense atmosphere that has settled in Chile in view of the confinement to barracks of Army units. The meeting lasted more than three and one-half hours.

The meeting started at approximately 2200 when President Aylwin arrived at his private home on Arturo Medina Street. Shortly afterwards his closest ministers, among them Interior Minister Enrique Krauss, Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa, and Defense Minister Patricio Rojas arrived.

Other ministers, under secretaries, and high-ranking authorities later joined the meeting.

Rumors proliferated as time went by and the tense atmosphere grew in view of the obvious first stage [en primer grado] confinement to barracks of Army troops.

Christian Democratic legislators Claudio Huepe, Andres Palma, and Guillermo Yunge also arrived at the presidential residence. They arrived, according to them, to voice their support to the president of the Republic in view of what they called an irregular situation.

At approximately 0115, Defense Minister Patricio Rojas came out of Aylwin's house and approached the great number of journalists who had gathered near the presidential residence to briefly report on what had happened.

Rojas said that the Army ordered a maneuver which entails a state of mobilization to test liaison tactics and that the Army will opportunely explain the reason for this maneuver.

[Begin recording] [Rojas] Neither the constitutional order nor the Armed Forces subordination as established by the constitution has been disrupted. Therefore, tomorrow will be a completely normal working day in the national defense sector.

[Unidentified reporter] Does this mean that nothing has happened?

[Rojas] That is all. Thank you very much.

[Reporter] Minister, this means there is no rebellion.

[Rojas] There is no situation of that sort. [end recording]

Minister Rojas's answer when asked whether there was any sign of rebellion was emphatic. He said that there is no situation of that sort.

The minister's statement marked the end of the meeting that had been prompted by a situation that placed the entire country on alert. All those who had been summoned to the meeting subsequently left. Interior Minister Enrique Krauss and Minister Enrique Correa left through the gate on Amapolas Street.

They all agreed that the situation has returned to normal and that the routine exercise that was performed by the Army would be fully clarified today.

Further on Aylwin Meeting

PY2112023690 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] There was no report issued on the meeting President Patricio Aylwin held with his commanders. Carabineros Chief General Rodolfo Stange, who was applauded by the people when he entered La Moneda Palace, left the building through its underground passage. Air Force Commander General Fernando Matthei also left the palace through the underground passage.

Navy Commander Admiral Sergio Martinez Busch, who left the palace on foot, was questioned by reporters.

[Begin recording] [Martinez] I thank you reporters for coming but I am not going to make any statement.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the situation in the Navy?

[Martinez] I already said that I am not going to make any comments.

[Reporter] Can you give us a report on the meeting with the president?

[Martinez] I do not normally comment on meetings with the president. [end recording]

Army Commander Denies Pinochet's Resignation

PY2012164090 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] General Augusto Pinochet was taken by surprise by rumors of his alleged resignation as commander in chief of the Army.

The Army commander made a statement to the media following a luncheon held by President Patricio Aylwin to Army War Academy graduates.

Civilian and military authorities, accompanied by their wives, attended the reception.

The following dialogue took place during a journalist and General Pinochet as he was leaving La Moneda Palace:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] General, there are rumors about your imminent resignation.

[Pinochet] My resignation?

[Reporter] Yes, yours.

[Pinochet] I have already said that I will keep on, so how could I be thinking of resigning?

[Reporter] It allegedly has to do with La Cutufa case and the checks issued to your son.

[Pinochet] Young lady, let me tell you that La Cutufa is an invention of the media, by you reporters, because La Cutufa has no connection with the Army as an institution in the first place. What else?

[Reporter] It also involves the case of the checks in which your son is involved.

[Pinochet] The checks [words indistinct]. What else? [end recording]

During the luncheon, President Aylwin voiced his pleasure in receiving the newly graduated War Academy Officers in their capacity as members of the Army staff and instructors in La Moneda Palace.

Pinochet Explains Army Maneuvers

PY2012180090 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Report by Graciela Contreras from La Moneda Palace in Santiago]

[Text] The meeting between Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet and President Patricio Aylwin here lasted approximately one hour. The chief of state this morning summoned the Army commander, primarily to discuss the Army's first stage confinement to barracks as of 1800 yesterday which, according to Pinochet, was a routine mobilization maneuver.

At the end of the meeting with Aylwin, Pinochet started his dialogue with the media by answering a question from Radio Nacional.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] General, what did you talk about?

[Pinochet] They wanted to know about a maneuver that was carried out yesterday. It was just a maneuver—nothing else. What else could it be? It was a safety, training, and liaison maneuver. That is all.

[Reporter] Was the government informed that this maneuver was going to be carried out?

[Pinochet] What did you say?

[Reporter] Was the government informed that this maneuver was going to be carried out?

[Pinochet] We do not need to inform the government about our maneuvers because they only concern the Army. We have not bothered anyone, we have not taken to the streets, we have not [words indistinct].

[Reporter] General, are you aware of the rumors stating that you are going to resign?

[Pinochet] There are some nosy people who ask questions and then publish nonsense in the newspapers.

[Reporter] General, is it true the government asked you to resign yesterday? [passage indistinct] [end recording]

While Pinochet chatted with the media, the Air Force and Navy commanders in chief, and Carabineros director entered President Aylwin's office.

Moreover, it was disclosed that in the next few hours the government will disclose an official communique on the talks held by President Aylwin and General Pinochet. The communique will be released by the Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa.

Foxley Downplays Army Confinement

PY2012190090 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Report by Veronica Susana Rubio]

[Text] Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley has denied that the Army's confinement to barracks could disrupt the country's economy and has noted that activities are developing normally. Foxley said the government is continuing to implement its plan normally and that this small incident is characteristic of transitions toward democracy but not really important.

[Begin Foxley recording] Not at all. It is not important. The government is functioning completely normally and we are working hard. As you can see, we are here and we are continuing to carry out our activities normally. These are incidents which are characteristic of the transition toward democracy but they have no real importance. This government knows what it is doing; it is working for the people. It enjoys the peoples' support and we have consolidated an exemplary democracy. Nobody is going to interrupt the democratic process in Chile. [end recording]

Minister Foxley made this statement during a visit to the new Serviu [Housing and Urban Development Service] office that will be in charge of rescheduling people's debts to this service. He was accompanied by Housing Minister Alberto Etchegaray.

Vargas Fields Questions From Diplomats

PY2012184490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Antonio Cofre report from the Foreign Ministry building in Santiago]

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas has stated that he received many phone calls this morning from Chilean diplomatic representatives abroad requesting information on the Army's confinement to barracks. Vargas said he will meet with President Patricio Aylwin and other government authorities in the next few hours to obtain further information on the issue. Vargas said the Foreign Ministry is waiting for an official government declaration to send to Chilean embassies abroad.

Vargas emphasized that democracy in Chile is fully consolidated, that there is no threat in Chile, and that the people are fully aware of what has happened.

Changing the subject, he said the resignation of USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was serious because it comes just a few days before the fatal date—15 January—for the resolution of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Shevardnadze, he said, has played an important role, as has U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in the search for a solution to the Persian Gulf crisis. Vargas said it is obvious that Shevardnadze's resignation will affect the outcome of the Gulf crisis.

Coverage of Situation Summarized

PY2012192490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1550 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Santiago, 20 Dec (EFE)—Today's press reports stress that the Army's confinement to barracks early this morning was due to internal problems that were the result of pressure from a certain sector against General Augusto Pinochet after cases of corruption that occurred during his presidency came to light.

The confinement to barracks, which caused a tense situation for eight and one-half hours, is being thoroughly covered by the media, which is mixing reportage with commentaries and all kinds of speculation.

Defense Minister Patricio Rojas has defined the military mobilization as "an exercise to help outline liaison plans." Rojas had previously said it was "an irregular development" within the Army.

The newspaper LA NACION, citing "an expert in military matters," stresses that the confinement to barracks was the result of an internal struggle between officers demanding that Pinochet resign as Army commander and others who want him to remain in the post.

The pro-government newspaper indicates that officers in the former group unsuccessfully tried to get the government to ask Pinochet to resign. When he ordered the confinement to barracks, "they tried to convince him to desist from such folly."

LA NACION adds that the internal struggle led to a crisis when Pinochet handed over to the courts the names of 150 officers and NCO's who had been sanctioned for their involvement in the activities of the illegal La Cutufa financial firm, which, in the opinion of the dissidents, "sullied the prestige of the Army."

The newspaper LA EPOCA reports that the confinement to barracks was a method of pressuring the government because the Army believes that the attacks against the commander in chief are unjust. The report adds, however, that the mobilization did not receive the approval of all the high command.

LA EPOCA, which leans toward the Christian Democrats, mentions Lieutenant General Jorge Lucar, deputy Army commander in chief, as the leader of the sector opposing Pinochet.

Several media highlighted the fact that Lucar, together with President Patricio Aylwin, participated in a graduation ceremony for new Carabinero officers (militarized police) hours after the confinement to barracks took place.

The newspapers recall that Lucar was "the promoter" of the agreement achieved in November 1990 between the government and the Army on the Army leadership, when a serious confrontation took place between Aylwin and Pinochet over the president's refusal to promote two generals who were supporters of Pinochet.

The newspaper FORTIN MAPOCHO, citing "intelligence sources," reports that the officers who confined themselves to barracks submitted three demands to the government: an end to the slander campaign against Pinochet, the removal of the defense minister, and the resignation of all socialist ministers.

Early this morning Rojas himself denied that the government had asked Pinochet for his resignation, and he stressed that the situation did not mean that institutional order has broken down.

The media, political leaders, and analysts agreed that a clearer explanation will have to be given on the causes and nature of this confinement to barracks. This is a clear demonstration that the defense minister's explanation has convinced no one.

Correa on Aylwin, Pinochet Meeting

PY2012165290 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1607 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] A few minutes ago, Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa released an official report on the meeting that President Patricio Aylwin held with General Augusto Pinochet about one hour ago. We have the following clip.

[Begin recording] [Correa] The president this morning summoned Augusto Pinochet, the Army commander in chief and captain general, to a meeting at La Moneda Palace. The meeting was also attended by Defense Minister Patricio Rojas.

During the meeting, the president asked the commander in chief to explain the unusual measures that the Army adopted yesterday.

General Pinochet explained to His Excellency that the measures consisted of an exercise of security, readiness, and coordination, which ended this morning and which had no implications whatsoever outside the Army.

After the meeting, the president and the minister of defense met with the commanders in chief of the Air Force and the Navy, and with the director of Carabineros, to inform them about the meeting held with Gen. Pinochet following the presidential summons.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Minister, can you describe the situation in the country from the viewpoint of the government?

[Correa] Well, the situation is completely normal and the authority of the president has been once again firmly established.

[Reporter] (?Did they not do anything)?

[Correa] Nothing. [end recording]

Minister Correa did not answer any of the other questions which were insistently put to him by the numerous reporters who gathered here at La Moneda Palace.

Government Said 'Not Satisfied'

PY2012214090 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1945 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The government is not satisfied with the Army's explanation of last night's confinement to barracks. [sentence as heard] This statement was made by Interior Minister Enrique Krauss after attending a meeting with the other ministers.

[Begin recording] [Krauss] All the ministers met with the president and, after evaluating the situation, we believe General Pinochet's explanation to the president on yesterday's action by the Army does not justify the action, which caused alarm among the population and damage at the national and international levels.

[Unidentified reporter] Is the government going to take any special measures to prevent this type of action from recurring, or is the warning to Pinochet enough?

[Krauss] An explanation has been given and it will have to be evaluated. One would hope this type of situation will not happen again because it is not justified. The country knows the reasons why this event occurred, and we believe the action cannot be justified.

[Reporter] Is the government satisfied with the answer provided by General Pinochet?

[Krauss] No statement has been made about whether the government is satisfied or not. Undoubtedly, it is not satisfied with this type of event.

[Reporter] Does the government believe the institutional order was at risk?

[Krauss] Absolutely not, the institutional order was maintained. The best proof of this is the general situation of public order, which is absolutely satisfactory, and the unanimous support provided by the two branches of Congress, which represent the clearest example of national sovereignty.

[Reporter] Last night the people experienced a state of anxiety and even fear. What would you tell the Chilean people?

[Krauss] To have confidence, that democracy is solid enough, and that this action does not have any relevance in terms of the stability of the process.

[Reporter] Did the president call for a meeting of the National Security Council?

[Krauss] No, he did not consider it.

[Reporter] What issues were discussed with the other two commanders?

[Krauss] I do not know because I did not attend that meeting.

[Reporter] In other words, this type of exercise will not be repeated.

[Krauss] I hope not.

[Reporter] General Pinochet said the Army does not have to report to the government on this type of exercise. Is this correct from a legal and constitutional standpoint?

[Krauss] This is a situation we are considering in terms of Army regulations.

[Reporter] Was a meeting of the National Security Council considered?

[Krauss] Let me repeat: A meeting of that group was not considered.

[Reporter] Will the president attend the scheduled ceremony tonight?

[Krauss] He should, because it is a tradition in relations between the executive branch and the Armed Forces. It is a very significant ceremony for the Army, which is part of our history. I am sure, therefore, that the president will attend and that he will receive the recognition he deserves as president.

[Reporter] To what degree does this type of action erode government-Army relations?

[Krauss] It undoubtedly creates a disturbance. It would be unrealistic and unobjective to say that the situation is normal. Without a doubt, what occurred was an abnormal situation which should not have happened, especially for the reasons that have been mentioned. It is not true that a mockery was made of the institutional order which the president, the coalition of parties for democracy, and the government decided to obey. Whoever said that the defense minister—who has the support of all cabinet members and certainly of the president—gave a deadline for the Army commander to leave his post made a daring statement, but a statement that is untrue and that does not agree with the position of the president and government.

[Reporter] What about the man who was arrested at the ministry last night?

[Krauss] The information we have is that the man's name is Godoy and that he was testifying in a proceeding before an Air Force prosecutor. Unfortunately, this man was taken to court as the most spectacular news of the last few weeks broke out. This sort of thing—getting caught in a sudden storm—can happen to anybody. [end recording]

Declaration on Confinement Approved

PY2112140490 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpt] This afternoon the Chamber of Deputies approved a declaration on the Army confinement to barracks by a majority vote; two National Renewal Deputies voted against it and five rightist deputies abstained.

The declaration, which was initially approved by the committees and chiefs of the congressional blocs, was read by Chamber of Deputies President Jose Antonio Viera-Gallo.

[Begin Viera-Gallo recording] 1. We reaffirm an absolute commitment to the democratic system and the state of law prevailing in the country, which are linked to the operation of democratic institutions and respect for the regulations and basic principles.

2. Consistent with these principles, the Honorable Chamber reiterates its confidence that with a patriotic spirit, we will continue consolidating democracy, which is everyone's task. [end recording]

When the declaration was submitted to the chamber, it did not receive unanimous support; therefore, the deputies had to vote. The declaration was approved by 74 deputies from the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, the Independent Democratic Union, and some National Renewal deputies. [passage omitted]

Army Issues Communique on 'Maneuvers'

PY2012233090 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Army has concluded the security, readiness, and liaison maneuvers that began yesterday afternoon and has released a brief communique through Brigadier General Cesar Streitt, chief of the Army Communications Department.

[Begin Streitt recording] 1. At 1000 this morning, after a meeting of the Army High Command during which performance was assessed, the security, readiness, and liaison maneuvers have concluded. These maneuvers began yesterday afternoon in all Army units in the national territory. Their objectives have been fully achieved.

2. The Army commander, in response to an invitation extended by his by his excellency the president of the Republic, explained at Government Palace the conclusions reached through those maneuvers. [end recording]

Krauss Denies Meeting With Pinochet

PY2112015690 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Interview with Interior Minister Enrique Krauss by an unidentified reporter at La Moneda Palace in Santiago—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Unidentified reporter] There is a report that General Ballerino, on behalf of the Army commander, reportedly requested some kind of negotiation with the government in which Pinochet would resign in exchange for a low-profile handling of the Army checks case. Is this report true?

[Krauss] That is unacceptable from the viewpoint of what the Aylwin government represents, because a democratic government, a government in which there is reciprocal respect for the rights of the different government branches, cannot get involved in negotiations over an objective.

[Reporter] But was that request made?

[Krauss] I am not aware of it because I have not participated in that kind of conversation, but I state categorically that all the information available should be known to the people. The government will not discuss or accept discussions or negotiations on any type of result, whether it is the resignation of a commander or another objective of a political-institutional nature which will place conditions on the positions of other government branches. If someone is subject to questioning by Congress, he will have to face it, and he will have all the guarantees of a democratic system. If someone has to face a judicial proceeding, he will have the guarantees of that process.

[Reporter] After this event, how would you briefly evaluate the general situation of the country? Was there a commotion?

[Krauss] There was no commotion, but there was undoubtedly some concern. The country is seeking formulas for understanding, tranquility, and peace. It is seeking agreement for the preservation of the democratic system and all Chileans—in the government, the opposition, civilians, and military personnel—have contributed to that goal. This task, which is everyone's responsibility, cannot be affected by the situation of particular institutions or, even worse, of particular individuals.

[Reporter] Do you consider this case closed?

[Krauss] I hope so, I hope this case is closed. I believe that the fact that Pinochet answered the president's summons and that the Army and government have stated their positions are signs that this situation is being overcome. I hope that in the next few days, as Christmas approaches, and on 22 December, we will all participate in the children's party at the national stadium with President Aylwin at 1800. With the participation of all Chileans, I believe this party will be a useful element in overcoming this situation, which was undoubtedly regrettable and painful.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. We appreciate your participation in this program.

Colombia

Government Minister Expected To Resign 21 Dec

PA2112022090 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0003 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The first ministerial crisis in the government of Cesar Gaviria will finally take place. Government Minister Julio Cesar Sanchez will present his resignation to President Gaviria tomorrow. This radio station has learned that the minister completed a typed letter of resignation today before travelling to Medellin.

It has insistently been rumored that Sanchez could be replaced by the current minister for development, Ernesto Samper Pizano. Even though the president will officially be advised of the resignation tomorrow, it had been rumored over the past few days. The minister himself had hinted at it. Several names of probable replacements are already being considered. The resignation will follow a protocol procedure tomorrow unless the president decides to turn it down.

Minister Sanchez had become tired of being displaced by advisers, who had virtually left him with no functions. Public order is being handled by adviser Rafael Pardo. Adviser Jesus Bejarano is in charge of the peace talks. The Constituent Assembly is being handled by Jesus Cepeda. On several occasions, the minister's statements, a little off-center, have been refuted by the president.

This radio station has learned that the minister had already presented his resignation verbally to President Gaviria when adviser Bejarano rebuffed him for having said he intended to meet personally with the guerrilla groups. At the time, the president did not accept the resignation and returned to him some of the functions related to the peace negotiations. Apparently, Minister Sanchez was tired of not having anything to do.

Justice Minister Discusses Ochoa Surrender

PA2012225790 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo Angel by unidentified reporters in Bogota—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning, Mr. Minister.

[Giraldo Angel] Good morning. How are you?

[Reporter] Fine. How about you Dr. Giraldo Angel?

[Giraldo Angel] Fine, thank you.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, while we were trying to get you on the line, you were able to hear Mr. Ochoa Restrepo's statements. What do you think about what the father of Fabio Ochoa Vasquez has said?

[Giraldo Angel] It is encouraging to see how the country has understood this government's opening for peace. Justice is being seen as a path that will lead to coexistence for everyone in the community. I view Mr. Ochoa's statements as an expression of the point of view of all the Colombian people who want a return to peace, justice, law, and the understanding that if we make a mistake we must pay for it—but at home, with our justices, with respect for human dignity, human rights, and the family. All Colombians want to be able walk the streets at any time without fear or anxiety. I believe that what Mr. Ochoa has said is very positive. I think this is how all the Colombian people feel.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, the Extraditables are beginning to respond to decrees [number indistinct] and 20-47. Is Colombia's justice system ready to handle the processes efficiently?

[Giraldo Angel] Yes, sir. Everything [words indistinct] public order, by giving them an adequate physical and legal structure so that they can function adequately. Later, we produced the decrees that have opened the doors of justice and peace. We are working on how to create adequate prison facilities to face this new situation to be able to guarantee the security of these people, to keep them separate from the rest of the inmates to prevent attacks or any other danger they may face. We are working in a synchronized manner, and fortunately matters are working well with the cooperation of engineering firms and other people related to this field of engineering. Everything is going well.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, since Mr. Ochoa faces no charges in Colombia, only charges in the United States, is there any possibility of him being extradited?

[Giraldo Angel] No, none. If he confesses to any of the crimes he has committed inside the country, he has an absolute guarantee that he will not be extradited.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, what is next for Mr. Ochoa?

[Giraldo Angel] Judicial offices throughout the country that may have filed charges against him should send those records to the court handling the case, to continue with the investigations. Embassies accredited in this country will be asked to send any charges they may have against him, as well.

Also, if there is an extradition request, the Justice Ministry must send it to the appropriate judicial offices so that they may continue the investigation. Based on that preliminary information, evidence will be requested from areas where it is available or it will be gathered in areas where this has not been done. The legal brief will be analyzed based on the available material, and a ruling will be issued concerning all the crimes to guarantee the implementation of the law regarding the accumulation of sentences—so that the sentence does not exceed 30 years, including the [words indistinct] in the decrees.

[Reporter] How long can this part of the process take, Mr. Minister?

[Giraldo Angel] Approximately one and one-half to two years. Not more than that because the jurisdiction of the judicial offices is restricted to these cases, so the procedures are much quicker. We believe that the proceedings, which include sending some documents abroad and gathering evidence, cannot take more than one and one-half to two years.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, the new chief of intelligence [name indistinct] said that the Cali Cartel leaders should also turn themselves in. One wonders: Are there any talks going on with them? Are there plans to establish a jail in Cali for their eventual surrender?

[Giraldo Angel] You know that there have been no talks. The sectional and regional directors have been authorized to handle all the requests. They will cooperate to facilitate people surrendering by guaranteeing their security and relocation. We have obviously made preparations to secure installations for all such persons in Bogota, Cali, Palmira, Medellin, Barranquilla, Cucuta, and Bucaramanga because we want them to be close to their families. This way they can be visited by their families and they can be close to their friends and relatives.

[Reporter] Mr. Justice Minister, you said moments ago that there is no possibility of extraditing Mr. Fabio Ochoa, who turned himself in yesterday. Do you expect any reaction from the U.S. Government concerning future surrenders of Colombian citizens for whom extradition requests had been filed, or concerning the latest surrender?

[Giraldo Angel] Would you please repeat the question [words indistinct]?

[Reporter, laughing] That was an unexpected question indeed! Mr. Minister, my question was: Based on your statement to Radio Cadena Nacional that there is no possibility of extraditing Fabio Ochoa, who yesterday turned himself in to the Colombian authorities, do you expect a reaction from the U.S. Government—given that Colombian citizens have accounts to settle with the U.S. legal system?

[Giraldo Angel] No. None. The official who is in charge of everything concerning the United States [words indistinct] policy said he fully endorses the Colombian Government's policy against extraditions. The international community demands that the people be tried, not extradited, so it is important to enforce justice. We must try to eradicate the scourge of drug trafficking by implementing each country's legal mechanisms. As soon as Decree 20- 47 was issued, the United States stated that it endorsed the government's policy of submitting Colombians to their own justice system, so there should be no concern about this.

[Reporter] How are extradition requests handled in Colombia? To whom are they addressed? Who handles them? What is the procedure?

[Giraldo Angel] The extradition request is sent by foreign govermments to the Colombian Government, through the Foreign Ministry, and the Justice Ministry handles the procedures. The final decision is adopted by six ministers and the president, however, because this is an optional government action. In other words, the procedures may call for one thing, but a political decision is adopted in the end, meaning the approval or rejection of an extradition request. That is why it involves the participation of six ministers and the president.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, a citizen has just called and begged us to ask you the following question: If someone who has already been arrested decides to accept Decree 20-47, can he do it?

[Giraldo Angel] No. This has a unique precondition. The person must voluntarily appear before a judge. That is the basic precondition. The person must voluntarily seek peace by submitting himself to justice. This does not apply to persons who have been captured by the judicial authorities, because it would be pointless. It is essential that the person voluntarily seeks peace by submitting himself to justice. That is why he must be free and voluntarily turn himself in.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, what can you tell us about security in the jails? For example, the one mentioned yesterday, the one in Itagui where Ochoa Vasquez was taken.

[Giraldo Angel] It is one of the most modern jails in Latin America, and the protection [words indistinct] military forces will control access to all these installations. There is also a specialized force in charge of the prisoners' protection. We are sure that we have taken all the necessary precautions to prevent any possible physical attack on these persons or any threat to their security, and to make sure that nothing happens.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, are the extraditions of other Colombians being considered right now or has the measure been suspended?

[Girardo Angel] No, no, no, no. We are currently reviewing requests for the extradition of several persons who have failed to accept the benefits of the decree. They are part of the government's policy, meaning that we must fight against this scourge with all the tools that the law provides. Consequently, we will continue with police operations to counter the production and processing of drugs; however, we are also willing to welcome all those persons who seek the protection of our justice system. In other words, the two policies must be simultaneously carried out and they certainly are. We will not hesitate to implement these two policies.

[Reporter] Thank you. You have been very kind.

[Girardo Angel] Have a nice day.

M-19's Navarro Discusses Future Plans

PM2012124290 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 8 Dec 90 p 7

[Interview with M-19 leader Antonio Navarro Wolff by special correspondent Joaquim Ibarz; place and date not given: "'My Challenge Is To Achieve a New Colombia Based on Democratic Foundations'"]

[Excerpt] Bogota—[Passage omitted] [Ibarz] How do you explain the Navarro phenomenon? In a few months you have changed from a guerrilla leader into a leading political figure.

[Navarro] Through the impetus of a democratic rationale, the honoring of pledges, with a policy directed toward the country, without any tricks or lies and with respect for the peace process. The honoring of agreements and a democratic and reasonable policy—without excessive demands or radical postures—earned us the sympathy of the Colombian people wanting a modern, peaceful society with progressive ideas and without extremism or the traditional political defects. The country's great weariness of the political class and of dishonesty combined in an exceptional phenomenon—the vote to punish the old and bring in the new and an opportunity for a constituent assembly representing the emergent Colombia.

[Ibarz] How much influence did the very harsh campaign against M-19 have?

[Navarro] This country's political culture has progressed. They thought that they could arouse the hatreds of the Colombia of 30 years ago, and they failed. It was a coarse campaign on a massive scale. We were praised for laying down our weapons, but when they realized that we could win, they turned us into demons. They were not believed.

[Ibarz] Will M-19 advocate from within the Constituent Assembly the revolution that it advocated during its clandestine period?

[Navarro] Sunday will set the seal on a revolution that has taken place in Colombia. Those who have governed hitherto could not continue to do as they presumed. The two-party system has broken down, other forces have emerged, and the new country is overtaking the old. The Constituent Assembly will be the institutionalization of this new social and political situation. It is a matter of providing Colombia with garb fashioned to its new size—and that is a revolution.

[Ibarz] Some of your supporters say that you are excessively conciliatory. Could some kind of new national front emerge, as conservatives and liberals join M-19?

[Navarro] We are not part of a theoretical struggle but part of a political struggle that involves realities and has to do with the Colombia of today. To start to move toward democracy there needs to be a meeting place, negotiations, and an accord. We are pursuing a policy of national union; it is necessary to establish the ground rules for coexistence. We cannot find an ideal constitution; we can only seek a constitution for all.

[Ibarz] Will M-19 accept the drug traffickers' request for a political deal whereby they can give themselves up?

[Navarro] This proposal is just that—a proposal. It is of interest if it can be the subject of negotiation and discussion. It cannot be a total solution, which is only possible if the world stops consuming drugs. We are not in favor of extradition. It does not make sense to resolve the question of impunity in one country by transferring the responsibility for justice to another. It is necessary to build a strong and independent justice in Colombia.

[Ibarz] Would you support granting special treatment to drug traffickers?

[Navarro] Drug traffickers are not a political group. Their use of violence is based not on ideas but on the defense of economic interests. Their penetration into politics has occurred in the traditional parties. They must be granted special treatment insofar as drug trafficking is no common and ordinary crime, since it involves astounding amounts of money and has managed to penetrate into the country's most sensitive parts. The scale of the crime demand special handling, but obviously not of a political kind.

[Ibarz] Is M-19 the basis for the formation of a social democratic party?

[Navarro] M-19 must advance within a broader blueprint embracing several forces. After the Constituent Assembly the next leap forward must be the creation of a great 19 April social democratic party.

[Ibarz] What role does M-19 assign to the military? Will it pursue the doctrine of national security?

[Navarro] Whatever conclusion is reached by the Constituent Assembly on national security must be broached with the Armed Forces.

Military Appointments, Transfers Reported

PA2112022390 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Dec 90 p 13-A

[Text] Yesterday the Colombian Defense Ministry officially appointed nine departmental commanders and police academy directors and transferred several officers who had administrative posts.

Lieutenant Colonels Hugo Lozano Rojas, Guillermo Francisco Ramirez Amaya, Uriel Salazar Jaramillo, Cesar Horacio Castillo Suarez, Raul de Jesus Suarez Gutierrez, Victor Manuel Paez Guerra, Pedro Pablo Linares Pena, Jorge Daniel Castro Castro, and Jorge Sanchez Barazarte were designated as garrison commanders in Meta and Llanos Orientales, Norte de Santander, Cauca, Cordoba, Guajira, Cesar, Putumayo, Amazonas, and San Andres y Providencia.

Col. Felix Evangelista Gallardo Angarita was appointed police under secretary at the defense ministry, Col Luis Alberto Rojas Merchan was appointed director of the Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada noncommissioned officers' school, and Col Luis Enrique Montenegro Rinco was designated acting head of the Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigation [Dijin]. Lt. Col. Humberto Fajardo Rozo has been appointed director of the Simon Bolivar Police Academy.

Col. Gustavo Alfonso Leal Perez, Cesar Augusto Ramirez Velasquez, Jairo Alfonso Velez Barragan, Carlos Alberto Pulido Barrantes, Juan Francisco Picateque Acevedo, and Rodrigo Hernandez Suarez, and Lt. Col. Alfonso Luis Merchan Nino, Heliodoro Antonio Roa, Hugo Alberto Pulido Sanabria, and Carlos Alberto Meza Pedraza were transferred to the General Police Directorate.

Finally, Lt. Col. Marco Antonio Cantiva, Luis Humberto Pachon Buitrago, Marco Antonio Moreno Ramirez, Roberto Salcedo Moros, Libardo Diaz Ortiz, Hector Juan Rodriguez Zamora, Jairo Sierra Avendano, Humberto Prieto Bernal, and Fernando Angulo were appointed to various posts in the police departments in Meta, Antioquia, Cundinamarca, Cauca, Santander, Narino, and Cesar.

* Guerrilla Activity Increasing in Coffee Region

91SM0098C Bogota SEMANA in Spanish 6 Nov 90 pp 46-48

[Text] On the night of 15 August, seven men riding in two campers arrived at the ranch of Julian Jaramillo Velez in the municipality of Villamaria (Caldas). They bound and gagged two guards at the main gate, along with the ranch foreman and, with the way now clear, set out to find the owner. The attackers tied his hands behind his back, put him in one of the campers, and fled in the darkness.

A week later, Jaramillo's family finally received news of him in the form of a telephone call. They were informed that the kidnap victim was in the hands of the Army of National Liberation (ELN). The person who took the call could not believe what he had heard and thought it was a bad joke. There were powerful reasons for thinking

they would have to wait for the real captors to make their demands known. There had previously been no reports whatsoever of any guerrilla presence in Villamaria or the string of little towns making up the main coffee zone.

As the days passed, however, the theory that Jaramillo was in the hands of the ELN began to gain ground. Thefts, primarily of livestock and bags of coffee, supplied the first clues. Shortly thereafter, however, all doubt was dissipated. The Jaramillo family received a tape of the kidnap victim's voice stating that he was in fact being held by that guerrilla group, which was demanding 500 million pesos in ransom. To make things even clearer, he added that he was the first on a list of coffee growers in the region who had been "chosen" as "financiers" of the ELN, which planned to set up a base of operations in the coffee zone.

The contents of the tape coincided with statements which the No 1 man in the organization had made to a Spanish periodical in July and which were unknown in Colombia. On that occasion, Spanish priest Manuel Perez, leader of the subversive group, said: "The coffee region is another area from which they are extracting great wealth without paying sufficient attention to the workers or coffee growers' prices. We are going to bring pressure to bear to hurt big coffee growers who have problems with operators and small growers."

Since the kidnapping of the Caldas coffee grower, a lot of water has flowed under the bridge of the country's main coffee-growing region. Threats from guerrilla groups or others acting in their name are on the rise. A profusion of tracts from the ELN and FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] have circulated on ranches and in towns telling coffee growers that in order to guarantee the safety of their lives and the lives of their families, they would have to pay a monthly fee to be collected directly on the ranches. No concrete figures are mentioned, but SEMANA has learned from several growers in the region that the "protection money" is about two million pesos. "This is nothing but a vulgar payoff to which the Cordoba livestock breeders have been subjected. Now they want to try it in the coffee zone. Unfortunately, many coffee growers have had to start coughing it up."

The region has been in an uproar and some have resolved not to return to their properties, choosing instead to manage them "by remote control" from Manizales, Pereira, and Armenia. However, others have refused to yield and have stayed on their land with heavy security provided at their own expense. It is not at all out of the ordinary to see caravans of armored cars in the region with a whole paraphernalia of escorts armed to the teeth. "Everything is all screwed up here too," one coffee grower who asked to remain anonymous told SEMANA. "You have to go around with guards or you've had it."

But while the owners of hundreds of hectares of land think things are serious when confronted with guerrilla threats, officials on regional committees of the National Federation of Coffee Growers prefer to remain silent. Jose Fernando Ocampo, president of the Chinchina Coffee Growers Committee, told SEMANA: "Nothing is happening here. They are just stories. Owners of plantations can move about at will and nothing happens to them."

However, harassment of coffee growers is growing, and not only by guerrillas, but also by bands of common criminals fishing in troubled waters. A month ago in the coffee-growing area of Risaralda, a group of hooded men invaded the plantation of one of the biggest growers in the region. They asked for him and when they were unable to find him, burned down the house and took 80 bags of coffee ready for sale. Before leaving the ranch, they left a message: "If you don't make the payoff, we'll be back soon." Three days later on another ranch, other hooded men stole machinery and part of the coffee that had been picked.

Despite the delicate situation, no reports were filed. Town officials have heard only rumors and those with inside information remain silent: "Look, the fact is that people prefer to remain silent to avoid stirring up the hornets' nest. Ranch owners have decided to form a common front to protect themselves. That is why they have installed radio telephones in their vehicles with private frequencies, so they can maintain direct communication enabling them to move about from one place to another in relative safety," one police officer from Armenia told SEMANA.

The situation has become even more complicated since the coffee harvest began. During the season, some 25,000 harvesters converge on plantations in Caldas, Quindio, and Risaralda. They comprise a migrant population that follows the harvests year-round looking for work. This phenomenon has been exploited by subversive groups trying to set up bases of operation in the region. It is claimed that some of the harvesters are guerrilla infiltrators whose task it is to inform on the activities of plantation owners. "It is a very difficult situation to handle. We do not really know who we are hiring and we cannot give the harvesters the same trust we did in previous years. That is why we have decided to change personnel on a weekly basis, in order to prevent information leaks that might endanger the lives of the growers," SEMANA was told by the administratqr of one plantation in Chinchina.

This migrant population, which during the last quarter of the year may involve as many as 35,000 persons, is very difficult for authorities to handle. On weekends, figures on thefts, street fights, injuries, and deaths shoot up.

The harvesters protest, claiming they have been the scapegoats for everything happening in the coffee-growing zone. Carlos Martinez, an Antioquia native who has made a living following the coffee harvest for 17 years, says it would be very difficult for someone to infiltrate the harvesters because they are like one big family living like gypsies roaming the country together throughout the entire year. "It is true there have been problems," he says. "Nearly every day there is a robbery on some ranch. They usually take loads of coffee, but that is just an ordinary crime because a lot of money is floating around this time of year. Here they pay right on the plantation and on weekends, the managers come with briefcases full of money. They carry ten to 20 million pesos in cash to pay 300 to 500 workers."

But it is not all common crime. It is a fact that guerrillas are coming into the zone and the question is why. Coffee growers say the appearance of the subversive groups in a region where the average standard of living is the highest in the country is not justified: "The coffee belt has taken advantage of the boom. Here we have a sufficiently good system of roads to meet the needs of the farmer in hauling his products. There are enough elementary and high schools to meet demand. All towns have hospitals, health clinics, and dental care for the community at reasonable prices. The coffee zone is not a breeding ground where leftist groups may proselytize," SEMANA was told by Jorge Cadena, director of the Coffee Research Center in Chinchina.

Coffee growers and officials in the zone have therefore come to the conclusion that the guerrillas' purpose is purely economic. Caldas, Risaralda, and Quindio contribute 30 percent of the country's coffee production. This quarter, coffee growers will harvest five million sacks of coffee, which in hard cash means 76 billion pesos, a sufficiently attractive sum to provide incentive for an offensive of pressure and threats.

Things are getting serious and the silence of regional committees is nothing more than a symptom of prudence and caution. They have decided to handle the problem behind closed doors. On several occasions, they have met in the offices of the National Federation of Coffee Growers in Bogota and held meetings with President Gaviria to keep him informed about the situation. A formal petition has even been presented to the government so that, if things get worse, a kind of peace commission for the coffee belt will be formed. Basic solutions are being sought before the situation leads to something similar to what has happened in Cordoba, where guerrillas have devastated the department and, in reaction, private groups have taken justice into their own hands, some financed by money from drug trafficking with all its sequels of violence and the destruction of institutions.

What no one can understand is why, on the eve of the Constituent Assembly—one of the sine qua non conditions for demobilization of the guerrillas—the ELN and FARC talk peace from La Uribe but wage war in the rest of the country.

Peru

Aircraft Warning Made; Reaction to DEA Chief

PY2012233290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1733 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Lima, 20 Dec (EFE)—The Defense Ministry reported today that airplanes avoiding the control of Peruvian authorities will be seized or shot down, as established by the Political- Military Command of San Martin Department, an active drug trafficking zone. The policy was implemented on 18 December. Pilots of small aircraft, whether in flight or on the ground, must submit to the control measures in that area of the Amazon jungle in northern Peru, the ministry explained.

Cocaine trafficking in San Martin Department is carried out mainly in Colombian aircraft that land and take off from several clandestine airstrips in the jungle.

The Political-Military Command in that department has established that airplanes flying in the zone must follow their announced route and reply to any request made to them. They must also land at their assigned airport without trying any elusive maneuvers. Should they disobey any order, they will be considered to be carrying out an illegal activity and will be captured or destroyed.

Three bombers are already stationed in the San Martin town of Tarapoto, command headquarters, and the department's airports will be controlled with those bombers.

The decision to impose these measures was made when Army General Mario Brito resumed his post as head of the Political-Military Command following an attack against him a few weeks ago. The announcement was made shortly after U.S. DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] Director Robert Bonner stated to THE WASHINGTON POST that the State Department is no longer willing to consider Peru a cooperating country in the antidrug struggle.

The State Department, however, denied Bonner's remarks and added that it is continuing cooperation with Peru to eliminate drug trafficking, "although to a lesser extent" during the Christmas holidays.

Hernando de Soto, adviser to President Alberto Fujimori and president of the Freedom and Democracy Institute, today reiterated that the DEA has not suspended its activities in Peru, although he admitted that there were some discussions over "disagreements on emphasis."

He said that neither the DEA nor Peru were satisfied with the manner in which antidrug operations are carried out in the Peruvian jungle, but added that the issue will be resolved through the negotiations being carried out between Peru and the United States.

U.S. Ambassador to Peru Anthony Quainton recently handed President Fujimori a letter from President George Bush in which Bush expresses his agreement with the Peruvian proposal for an overall struggle—not only with repression—against drug trafficking.

* MRTA Commander Ricardo Interviewed

91WR0047Z Lima CAMBIO in Spanish
31 Oct 90 pp 12-13

[Interview with Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) Northeast Front Commander "Ricardo," by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—first two paragraphs are CAMBIO introduction]

[Text] CAMBIO was in San Martin and had an opportunity to interview Commander "Ricardo," who is in charge of the MRTA's Northeast Front operating in that area. We also were able to spend a night with the guerrillas in one of their so-called support bases, where a political-military school was being run for very young "cumpas" [comrades] who had just joined the organization.

The attack on the chief of the political-military command, General Brito, the guerrillas' experience in this area, drug trafficking, and possible U.S. intervention were some of the topics discussed. Here is the interview with the leader of the MRTA Northeast Front:

[CAMBIO] What were the reasons that led you to attack General Mario Brito?

[Ricardo] This action was a political-military response by the MRTA to the repressive forces for the abuses and human rights violations committed against the people of San Martin. We belong to the people, and all aggression against the peasants, against popular leaders, is felt deeply by us. That is why we decided to do justice. This action is a warning to the Armed Forces and the government that they must respect the rights and the lives of the civilian population that is involved in the guerrilla warfare currently taking place in the country.

[CAMBIO] Couldn't this action turn against you and prompt a larger offensive by the Army that will destroy the guerrillas and cause more chaos and violence in the region?

[Ricardo] The offensive by the repressive forces against the people and against the guerrillas is an everyday occurrence. As for the possibility that the guerrillas will be destroyed, I can tell you that for this to happen, the Armed Forces would have to do away with the entire population of San Martin, because the combatants who make up the ranks of the MRTA are from this area. They have taken up arms because they are experiencing firsthand the injustice of this system. For this reason, if one combatant falls, another one will take up his weapon and continue the struggle.

[CAMBIO] Can it be said, then, that the guerrillas are firmly established in this area?

[Ricardo] That's right.

[CAMBIO] What is the MRTA's assessment of the work you are doing in the so-called Northeast Front?

[Ricardo] It was described as positive at the 3rd Plenum of the Central Committee that was held recently. What we are doing in this part of the country is perhaps a new experience in the nation and even in all of Latin America ...

[CAMBIO] Aren't you indulging in excessive optimism?

[Ricardo] No, not at all, because the advances in this region have been not only quantitative but also qualitative. In this struggle we are forging organizations that will sustain a true democracy and allow the people to determine their own destiny. These advances have a number of manifestations. The first is organizational, in that all the towns are organized. There are militias to deal with discipline, justice, and they are raising consciousness by various means: assemblies, films, graffiti, and flyers. Another very important aspect is that we have managed to capture the hearts of the people. The people as a whole support the guerrillas, even to the extent of providing reports, provisions, victuals.

[CAMBIO] Doesn't this bring about more repression of the people by the Armed Forces? Doesn't it create a situation of violence in the areas where the guerrillas operate?

[Ricardo] No, because the people support the guerrillas not out of fear, but because they know how to figure out who is with them, who is defending their interests. The repressive forces have also been greatly discredited because of the abuses and human rights violations, and for other reasons.

[CAMBIO] What are these other reasons?

[Ricardo] They, the Army and the police, are operating under a lot of limitations. The first one is that in the case of the Army, those who fight against us (those who engage in hand-to-hand combat and don't remain in the cities) do so because they are given orders from the high command, not out of conviction. Many of them, second lieutenants and non-commissioned officers, recognize that they are fighting because they are forced to. Besides, they belong to the people too, and often they come to

understand the reason why the guerrillas are fighting in such a poor and forgotten region.

[CAMBIO] And what about the police?

[Ricardo] The police no longer have any moral grounds for fighting us. They have been completely discredited as corrupt and immoral. Just a short time ago we deactivated two bands of Republican Police officers who were involved in robbery and smuggling. Even the commander of the outfit was implicated. We went to his residence, searched it in the presence of the populace, and found stolen goods there. Of course, because of the corruption that exists, he has not been punished by the police or by the courts. But the important thing is that he has been exposed in front of the people.

[CAMBIO] One factor that contributes greatly to the violence and corruption in the area is the presence of drug trafficking. What is your organization's position on this phenomenon? Haven't you been tempted by the money involved in this "business," with which you could buy weapons, and finance your operations?

[Ricardo] We are opposed to drug trafficking and we have not been tempted, nor do we have any ties with the drug traffickers. We obtain our weapons through recoveries, and there are also people who donate them to us, even in the Army. Not long ago a member of the Armed Forces gave us a very significant quantity of arms and munitions. Our other expenses are financed through the taxes we levy on the rich.

[CAMBIO] But you don't fight the drug traffickers openly?

[Ricardo] It's not such a simple matter. It is true that there are "narcos" in the region where we operate, but we can't spend all our time fighting them, for obvious reasons. We are not in a position militarily to open up several battle fronts at once, and it is well known that the drug traffickers have powerful armies and extremely sophisticated weaponry. We believe, moreover, that the solution to the problem of drugs and drug trafficking should be comprehensive. To do away with this once and for all, we must have control of the state, and that is what we are fighting for. Because the state has already proven its ineffectiveness in this area, as in all others. And now, on the pretext of fighting the drug traffickers, it is really opening the doors to allow the imperialists to invade our country.

[CAMBIO] Are you referring to the military bases?

[Ricardo] That's right. The root of the coca problem is the peasants' poverty. The National Enterprise for Industrial Marketing (ENCI) pays them 7.5 million for a ton of corn, while the "narcos" are paying 100 million a kilo for coca, and they can get five kilos of coca from every hectare. That is the problem. And bringing in Green Berets and building military bases, as they are already doing, shows no willingness to solve the problem. That, as I said before, is really intended to fight the guerrillas.

[CAMBIO] There has been talk of the possibility of building military bases like the one at Santa Lucia in this region. What would be the MRTA's attitude in this case?

[Ricardo] We think that the construction of these bases and Yankee intervention are problems that should be discussed at a national level. The MRTA emphasizes that it will not permit American intervention, and it calls upon all democratic sectors to build an anti-imperialist front against this traitorous government and to pledge to fight militarily for the expulsion of these elements.

[CAMBIO] Moving on to another topic, there has been a lot of talk about the disputes between your organization and Shining Path over control of the Upper Huallaga. There are rumors of military clashes.

[Ricardo] They're not just rumors. We are constantly having problems with Shining Path, because they destroy popular organization while we seek to strengthen it. We want power for the people, they want it for their party. They commit acts of terrorism, they destroy things, they create poverty in the belief that in this way they are raising the people's consciousness. We don't think that way. We believe that the hearts and minds of the people cannot be won through fear, but rather through political training, through our own example, our own actions, respecting popular organization.

[CAMBIO] Is it true that there have been military clashes?

[Ricardo] Yes, Shining Path has challenged us and attacked and annihilated our combatants, and we will respond to this militarily at the appropriate time. But this does not mean that we do not have a policy of alliance, and if Shining Path changes its tactics and strategy, we can talk. But not today, because what Shining Path is doing with its actions is discrediting the revolutionary struggle.

[CAMBIO] Going back in time a little, what can you tell us about the take-over at Yurimaguas? Did you participate in it?

[Ricardo] Yes, I was there. Three detachments participated in it: Alcides Reatigui, Roger Lopez, and Roberto Perez (named after comrades fallen in battle, he explains). We went in at 0300 hours and stayed in the city a total of five hours. Because of technical problems with the weaponry, we were not able to take over the entire navy barracks, but we did take part of the town and the training area. In this action, which we consider victorious, we recovered nearly 80 weapons, including both handguns and long guns, more than 200 grenades, and combat and communications equipment. And the most important thing was that we didn't have a single

casualty, only wounded comrades who rejoined the guerrillas after they recovered. The Navy suffered six casualties.

[CAMBIO] Aside from the recovery of weapons, as you call it, what other objectives did this action have?

[Ricardo] The key objective was to extend our operational range to Loreto, because that is the main task that has been assigned to this Northeast Front: to expand our radius of action and contribute with our experience to the strengthening of the other military fronts in the organization.

[CAMBIO] One final question. Why are you with the guerrillas?

[Ricardo] I am in the guerrillas and in this project, which is a comprehensive project, for a very simple reason: I am a convinced, dedicated socialist persuaded by the need to be a revolutionary, to sow seeds along the road to revolution.

[CAMBIO] Isn't there also a more personal element in your determination?

[Ricardo] Like all people, I also have a side that could be called more intimate, and in my case, I would say more familiar. I come from a humble family; I know what poverty, hunger, and misery are. I know what it's like to go to school, to go to the university without proper food, without books or clothing. This is a personal issue that I believe many people have faced, and it gives them more strength, more conviction that they are devoting their lives in this struggle to open up a new path to future generations. [This is being done so that future generations] will have what we and many others are denied today.

*Peasant Defense Patrols Combat Terrorists

*In Junin Department

91WR0046Z Lima CARETAS in Spanish
12 Nov 90 pp 30-33, 85

[Report by Abilio Arroyo]

[Text] CARETAS traveled to the distant community of San Blas, where we collected moving testimony on the terrorists' filthy war against the defenseless peasants. On the basis of their tragic experience, one can assess the consequences of the battle being waged between the Sendero Luminoso [Shining Path—SL] and the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] for control of the zone.

The peasant woman, in mourning garb and with a blue scarf covering her face, emerged from beneath the old stone and adobe arch at the entrance to the small square in San Blas, a town 100 kilometers to the west of Huancayo.

She was grasping a curious kind of spear (a sickle tied to the end of a shovel, which she seemed to be using to fortify herself for the brief interrogation about identity and background. Simultaneously, another peasant woman carrying a child wrapped in a multicolored blanket, began to ring the bell in one of the fortified towers of the church as an alarm signal.

Almost immediately, some 30 men, women, and children armed with rustic machine guns made of wood—just a toy which is not even frightening—spears, slingshots, and machetes, surrounded the square.

The scene reminded one of the self-defense committees of the communities in Ayacucho which are currently confronting Shining Path.

"There is no problem, they are journalists," the woman in mourning called out. Little by little the ice was broken.

"Just last night," another patrol member commented, "there was a dynamite explosion near our town. We are on guard, because the terrorists are always up to tricks. A week ago, in the town of Huachacc, beyond that hill, Senderists pretending to be artists killed the governor and burned the town hall. That same night, they attacked the municipality of Chambara, as well."

The president of the community, who made excuses for failing to identify himself (for security reasons), explained that very early that day, the majority of the population had gone to the Saturday market in Chupaca.

"During the day," the leader went on to say, "women take care of the town, while we see to our livestock and work our plots. We men men take turns guarding at night."

The peasants' faces are toughened by the cold, and they also have reddened eyes because of the many sleepless nights. Their attitude reflects the tension caused by the subversive threat. The assassination of five patrol members by a Senderist column at the foot of the monument to Andres Avelino Caceres in the community of Pucara on 19 October aggravated the situation, and put the approximately 100 communities organized in patrols throughout the Mantaro Valley on the alert.

Almost all of these peasant organizations were sponsored by the Army, for the purpose of halting the advance of subversion into the heart of the valley. They are a kind of safety cordon. And the fact is that despite the constant assassinations and robberies in the Mantaro Basin and the city of Huancayo, the terrorist advance has been contained.

But the defensive aspect has not been the only one, or even the most important, in the opinion of various individuals in the know. Apparently, success is being achieved by altering the social base of Shining Path, which for a time had won many sympathizers with the distribution of land and livestock of the Cahuide and Heroinas Toledo SAIS [Social Interest Agricultural Associations], among others.

The struggle of the patrol members in this zone is not only against Shining Path as is the case in Ayacucho. The armed population must confront another enemy with even greater firepower—the MRTA.

This terrorist movement has renewed its infiltration activity in the peasant communities, trade unions, and popular organizations, in an effort to recover lost ground since the clash in Los Molinos, in which its leading cadres were shot down. The new activity of the subversives has led to a situation of red alert within the Security Forces and a corresponding reaction on the part of the patrols. Also, the two antagonist terrorist groups, for their part, have launched their particular struggle to establish hegemony, or at least dominance, in certain zones.

"Two years, ago the Senderists came," Iraida Chicchi Paredes recalled. "Like you, they appeared suddenly, and they gathered all of us who were in the streets together so they could deliver their message to us. We did not understand very well, because they began to speak to us about the armed struggle, President Gonzalo, Marxism, Leninism, and I don't know what other things. Then they distributed some red fliers to us, which we could not read, because the majority of us are illiterate. When they realized this, they asked us to give their fliers back, and they went around warning the authorities that they should resign. Some paid no attention, but the majority were afraid, because we had received reports from neighboring towns that those who refused to resign were killed."

From their accents, some of the peasants concluded that the majority of the Senderists came from Ayacucho. At the time of this first incursion, Shining Path established its presence in the zone, with the destruction of the prosperous Cahuide and Heroinas Toledo SAIS. Ten days later, the terrorists returned, further strengthened by another eight individuals, including four women, to "appoint their representatives."

"Then they asked us if the authorities had resigned," another patrol member recounted. "We lied and said they had. They told us that was good, because now we were on a popular war footing. They said they were close to seizing power and had come to organize us because they needed our support. After gathering the population in the municipal building, Shining Path forced community members Eliseo Soriano and Alberto Arestegui to accept responsibility as the new authorities. They were the representatives who would have to carry out all of the Shining Path directives and develop the so-called "peasant and youth movements." Arestegui worked as the treasurer at the Heroinas Toledo SAIS, and he was forced by Shining Path to carry out the task of distributing its livestock, including 500 head of sheep, in the community of San Blas.

"All of the sheep have died," a member of Arestegui's family said with resignation. "The climate and the pasturage here were not good for them. They developed a rare illness and their fleece gradually fell out, and they became thin and died."

Like the sheep, the improved strain of cattle which it took more than ten years of genetic research to develop suffered decimation on the Junin pampas, to the point that some communities chose to sell them to slaughterhouses in Palian, Chupaca, and Sicaya in order to get some good out of them.

Later on, the Senderists who had distributed the SAIS lands among the workers began to force them to participate in incursions against the communities which resisted domination by the terrorists, in particular those on the right side of the Mantaro Valley.

"They began by asking us for ten men to participate in the struggle," a patrol member recalled, "but we did not want to do this, and so we agreed that the women would go out to meet them while we men hid in the hills. Some others went to Huancayo or Chupaca to work."

In October of last year, just prior to the municipal elections, the Army established a military base in Quero, and began to carry out various counterinsurgency operations in the zones regarded as "red," particularly in the region of Chongos Bajo and Chongos Alto, and the basin of the Cunas River.

"The military also committed abuses against us," one patrol member said, "because they thought we supported the terrorists. For this reason they tortured us, asking us to surrender the weapons they claimed we had hidden."

And so the 300 settlers in San Blas lived from hand to mouth for a time. Eliseo Soriano and Alberto Arestegui, the "Senderist representatives," for their part, had been sentenced to death for failure to carry out the orders of Shining Path, because the community authorities had continued in their posts and the settlers had not accepted the cultivated land reforms. This situation forced Soriano to travel to Lima.

On 8 November of last year, the president of the administrative council of the community, Vidal Paredes Ballasco, informed his wife, Julia Morales, that about 30 uniformed men had crossed the suspension bridge over the Cunas River.

When the uniformed men reached the square, Paredes Ballasco approached and welcomed them. After learning

who he was, the men asked him to take them to the homes of Gregorio Carhuamaca and Doler Paredes Mucha. At the same time, another group of uniformed men gathered the people at the community athletic field. Paredes and the other two community authorities were taken to the school and dispatched with gunshots to the temple. The bloody bodies of the peasants were suspended from one of the beams in the hall of the school, and to claim credit for the crime, the slogans "Long live the MRTA" and "Death to the Senderists" were painted on the walls. That same evening, in the neighboring community of Rochas, the terrorists had used the same method in murdering two other peasants. This was the beginning of the clashes between Shining Path and the MRTA, for which the peasants, forced by both sides to serve as false figureheads, had to pay the price.

Despite this, the few peasants who were unable to leave the area because they lacked the resources decided to oppose the subversives.

Just prior to the general elections in April, eight settlers who were taking their ease in the square in San Blas found themselves faced once again with the first two Senderists who had come to their town.

"They were armed with revolvers," a sturdy patrol member recalled, "and they demanded that we give them a list of the settlers who had gone to Chupaca to vote. When they came to the square the following day, I saw that they were not armed, and simply pretending not to understand, I attacked them. The others helped me, and in a matter of two minutes we had stoned them to death.

"The identification of one of them said he was an representative of Cambio 90, and that his name was Ananias. We buried the men, with their propaganda, at the foot of the tree which grows on one side of the church."

Then came the decision to organize the peasant patrols. In the early days of October, the settlers presented themselves at the Huancayo barracks, asking for recognition by the Army. An officer met with them and informed them that he would visit them in the near future to give them certain instructions. Three days later, the political-military commander of the zone himself, EP [Peruvian Army] General Juan Delgado Rojas, paid a visit to the community to encourage the people to pursue the counterinsurgency struggle. "We asked the general for weapons in order to defend ourselves better," the president of the peasant patrol said in conclusion. "He promised to provide a shotgun for each subversive fighter."

* In San Martin Department

91WR0046B Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 6 Nov 90 p 4

[Report by Francisco Narrea San Miguel]

[Text] One of the factors which has most recently emerged on the scene in the battle being waged against subversion and drug trafficking is exemplified by self-defense committees where peasants, teachers, merchants, and authorities have organized themselves, in light of the inadequacy of a state which is unable to protect them or to administer justice. Now sectors of the population in Alto Huallaga have declared war on the armed groups.

In an area where the state has given priority to the battle against drug trafficking, and where subversives are trying to recover the social base they lost during the administration of General Arciniega, grassroots and government organizations have established a horizontal relationship, encouraging local leadership and creating conditions which contribute to strengthening development activities and the countersubversive struggle.

This action outside the existing juridical, political, or police framework is filling the vacuum created by the lack of a state presence, or by the failure of the state to function in reaction to the attacks and murders committed in the zone by both the MRTA and the Sendero Luminoso [Shining Path—SL]. The peasant patrols or self-defense committees in Shapaja, 32 kilometers from Tarapoto, and Shasuta, are the main ones which have developed in the area.

The insurgent origins of the self-defense committees do not limit them to resolving the problems which gave rise to them. Currently, they are discussing all kinds of problems. They are dealing with marital issues, such as adultery and physical abuse of wives by their husbands. They are carrying out public works, supervising and participating in the Glass of Milk program, in coordination with the municipal government. They are engaging in educational, productivity, and other tasks.

Prior to the assassination of Professor Julio Sanchez Vela, the secretary general of the SUTEP [Trade Union of Education Workers] and president of the Shapaja Defense Front, the MRTA and the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] were allied in the Shapaja and Shasuta zones. These were localities favored by the MRTA because of the lack of police control there. But with the murder of this professor, who was a member of the MIR, a schism developed between these two groups.

and as the MIR has a larger membership, it began to dominate in Shapaja and Shasuta, and its members began to eliminate the adherents of the MRTA. As a result, the incursions ceased. When the MRTA, now organized with greater strength, began to appear again, peasants organized patrols which constitute the security force in this zone. It was they who captured the murderers of Professor Sanchez. They investigated the crime, followed the trail, and captured the assassins at their hideout, who were subsequently turned over to the Technical Police.

The patrol structure includes 30 groups made up of 12 persons each. The males between 18 and 50 make up the membership, and they take a shift once a month, patrolling from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. There is no coordination of any kind with the political-military command. Those on patrol are armed (shotguns and breech-loaded weapons), in order to protect themselves against common criminals and subversives. In many cases, there have already been clashes. The organization has been greatly improved, and this has been because of the clamor of the people. Everyone renders service with the Shapaja self-defense committee.

The penalty imposed by the patrols depend on the crime, ranging from shaving the head of the culprit (for marital infidelity) to whipping and execution (for theft or murder). The penalties are imposed by a justice committee made up of teachers.

The leadership posts in the self-defense committee and the justice committee rotate. Everyone serves as an officer at some time. Everyone participates in the general assembly, and the work plans are agreed upon by decision of the people. The committees perform the functions of the local police. Every visitor must identify himself and state the reason for his visit.

Recently there was an attack and a murder on the highway between Shasuta and Shapaja, eight kilometers away from the first of these settlements. A Shapaja teacher was murdered by people in that same town. The patrol, summoned because of this event, captured the man in command of this group and executed him by popular decision. When they was arrested him, they recovered four billion intis, which they turned over to the Technical Police.

Venezuela

Terrorist 'Carlos' Said Assisting Iraqis

PA2012233490 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2238 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Caracas, 20 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Carlos Ilich Ramirez, the Venezuelan terrorist known as "Carlos," is in Iraq to coordinate actions for that country's government, his father Altagracia Ramirez Navas has reported.

According to a report published today in the Venezuelan daily EL NACIONAL, Ramirez Navas told this newspaper that his son is not dead, as has been believed for years.

Ramirez Navas, who lives in the town of San Cristobal, Tachira State, 800 km from this capital, said that he keeps in close touch with his son and that the last time he heard from him he was in Iraq.

According to the French weekly L'EXPRESS, Carlos reportedly lives in Damascus, where he calls himself Mochel Assaf, with his wife, Magdalena Koff.

Carlos is considered to be one of the most dangerous terrorists of the past few decades. He is believed to be responsible for many terrorist operations.

* Commentary Questions Motives of Bush Initiative

91SM0102D Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 3 Nov 90 p 3

[Commentary by Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) leader Pompeyo Marquez]

[Text] A thorough study of the so-called Bush proposal is being made on the national as well as Latin American level. It is an issue to be handled by foreign ministries, but basically by the group of protagonists involved in an examination of the critical and daily more deplorable situation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Among the many documents emerging, two from SELA [Latin American Economic System] and the National Economic Council are of special importance.

According to SELA, Bush' proposal provides even greater advantages for the United States. At its 16th council held in September of this year, there was a lively debate of the issue.

The Permanent Council stated that SELA believes the measure sets extremely harsh conditions for the region and that instead of viewing it as the product of American generosity, Latin American countries should study the proposal as the result of a need of the United States.

The National Economic Council analyzed the topic in September and drafted a rather extensive report establishing the position of the organization, which serves the Executive Branch in an advisory capacity.

We believe it is of far-reaching importance to look at the motives that prevailed in the United States and resulted in a measure revolving around three basic pillars: trade, investments, and debt. These aspects appear to be unrelated to the proposal, even though they are basic to any Latin American strategy on the United States. We believe it is of interest to look at the motives which the National Economic Council said Bush had for launching his proposal.

We should like to emphasize three of those contained on pages 2 to 5 of the reference report:

1) The United States is going through an economic crisis, the CEN [National Economic Council] says, one manifested in the persistent loss of productivity and competitiveness and accompanied by a constant deterioration in the balance of trade and payments. It is also experiencing serious financial and fiscal problems, underlain by social difficulties as a result of greater regressiveness in the distribution of income. Furthermore, it has the highest debt in the world.

2) It is facing a frank decline in its hegemony, manifested in the deterioration of its economic might and a tangible loss of presence in the world, resulting, among other things, from the superior ability to compete by other commercial powers, particularly Japan and the European Community (EEC).

3) The United States needs to guarantee captive markets for its exports and to do so, its "final objective" is a "system of free trade connecting all the Americas: North, Central, and South," to quote President Bush. With Canada and Mexico, it proposes to create a North American Common Market whose area of 21 million square kilometers and 350 million inhabitants represent commercial trade exceeding $800 billion.

An analysis of the so-called Bush initiative reveals that the benefits to Latin America are questionable.

* Calderon Berti on PVDSA, Foreign Investment

91SM0102B Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
4 Nov 90 p D2

[Interview with former energy and mines minister Humberto Calderon Berti by Alfredo Pena; place and date not given]

[Excerpts]

[Pena] In his appearance before Congress, Andres Sosa Pietri, president of PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.], practically ordered the death of OPEC, stating we would never again return to that organization's quota system.

[Berti] The president of Venezuelan Petroleum has repeatedly usurped responsibilities that do not belong to him. By making such a statement, he involves himself in the conduct of oil policy, whose function is assigned to the Ministry of Energy and Mines by the Organic Law on Central Administration as well as the PDVSA Charter. These public statements which he has often made concerning oil policy are inappropriate coming from him. They create confusion, cause contradictions, and hurt Venezuela's prestige abroad. He is a subordinate, legally speaking, of the head of energy and mines and is not empowered to make pronouncements such as those he has made before the Chamber of Deputies Finance Committee.

[Pena] Not long ago, President Perez in a way claimed credit for having prevented OPEC from dying and for having succeeded in bringing it together in the midst of a crisis to approve an increase in production.

[Berti] That was a formality which President Perez tried to carry out. I disagreed with going to OPEC because everyone knew that only Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela were going to increase production. Venezuela was able to do it outside of OPEC, which is now somewhat off the track because the decisions it makes are basically influenced by regional political interests.

[Pena] I think that when Andres Sosa tells Congress that we shall not return to OPEC's quota system, he is revealing precisely the same organizational crisis to which you are referring.

[Berti] I am not talking about whether or not Sosa is right. My personal opinion is that it will be very difficult to return to the quota system. I have simply said it is not up to him to establish criteria on the matter. Furthermore, it is in contradiction with what was agreed upon at the last OPEC meeting, at which the Venezuelan Government agreed in writing to return to the quota of 1,945,000 barrels a day. One then wonders: Who is in charge of oil policy: Andres Sosa Pietri or Celestino Armas? The minister says one thing and the president of PDVSA another. The president has in his hands the means to resolve this conflict.

[Pena] The president of PDVSA also told Congress that none of the scenarios provided for the departure of foreign troops from Saudi Arabia, at least in short-range terms. He warned that the decisions of that country, a big producer and the world's main oil producer, would be influenced by that reality.

[Berti] Independently of whether this is true or false, when stated by an extremely high official of the Venezuelan Government, it is an element of political disturbance in our relations with Saudi Arabia. He could have made the statement to the president or the minister of energy and mines, but not publicly. Some of my friends in the Middle East told me that all of Sosa Pietri's statements on Venezuelan oil policy are praised by President Perez and have his support. They cannot understand how an official can say all of these things without being censured. Having nothing personal against the current president of PDVSA, I must emphasize that never has that high level of industry management ever uttered as many inanities as Sosa Pietri has. He went so far as to say that the United States will be OPEC member No 14. We are facing an extremely delicate situation and

no more time can be wasted. The frequent confrontations between the president of Venezuelan Petroleum and the minister of energy and mines has created a government problem.

[Pena] What do you propose in order to solve this problem?

[Berti] The president must take the bull by the horns and order Sosa Pietri to cease his public statements on the conduct of oil policy. Otherwise, he will have to remove him from his post for reasons of state.

[Pena] Are you proposing Sosa Pietri's removal?

[Berti] Precisely.

[passage omitted]

[Pena] What should the scope of foreign investment in our country be?

[Berti] Foreign investment in the fundamental, basic activities of the industry: exploration, production, refining, and so on, is not necessary or suitable. No other activity pays the Venezuelan Government over 80 percent of its net revenue. What we should do is privatize the 390 enterprises, including the CVG [Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana] group, that are a drain on public finances. This year they have an accumulated deficit of 172 billion bolivars. From 1976, the year of nationalization, until 1989, the oil industry generated $165 billion. This year, those resources will total $12 billion. What is happening is that the industry is overburdened with taxes. Most of its revenue goes into the National Treasury.

[Pena] Do you think foreign investors will return to the country despite that tax burden?

[Berti] I do not think the activity is profitable with the tax setup we have.

[Pena] It is the same scheme the oil companies had before and their earnings in our country were always extremely high.

[Berti] Yes, but under different circumstances. I doubt the Christopher Colombus Project to work gas can be economically viable if we maintain the 67-percent tax rate. I have the impression it will be necessary to include some very special considerations in the price of raw materials and the existing tax system.

[Pena] Andres Sosa Pietri has said that partnership with the transnationals should go "from the well to the consumer." And while clarifying that he had not said it was necessary to reform Article 5, the president proposed the partnership "upstream."

[Berti] Article 5 states that the government can form partnerships provided that and as long as it maintains control. If the Christopher Colombus Project is to be carried out as it is: 70 percent for transnationals and 30 percent for the government, it will not be feasible. They would have to modify Article 5. If, in fact, foreign companies are willing to form partnerships with us "from the well to the consumer," existing legislation will then have to be analyzed with extreme care. I think it would be suitable to integrate totally: from exploration to sale of the final product. I would back that type of association in new areas, areas of risk not subject to development by Venezuelan Petroleum. However, the transnationals will have to present innovative partnership arrangements and not the same ones they used up until 1976.

[Pena] PDVSA has announced programs whose cost approaches 20 billion bolivars. Such amounts of money do not exist here and must be found abroad. This paves the way for partnerships.

[Berti] This happens because public monies have been handled with great irresponsibility. The gigantism of a government that owns bankrupt companies is what causes oil resources to be depleted without being used on the industry and for the welfare of the people. The government has been guilty of neglect: personal security, territorial defense and integrity, our infrastructure, services, and so on. We cannot continue to carry the burden of hundreds of companies in the red.

[Pena] Do you think the government should devote itself basically to the oil industry?

[Berti] Very few industries in Venezuela have the profit margin the oil industry does, which in itself justifies the government maintaining its control.

Excess Profits

[Pena] Instead of proposing using excess profits to pay the debt, as some have, would it not be preferable to invest those profits in the industry itself and in social programs?

[Berti] I think so. I think they should be distributed as follows: 1) reserve fund; 2) Venezuelan Petroleum; and 3) social programs, with direct subsidies to the neediest classes. The reserve is necessary for when oil prices come down.

Guyana

Hoyte on 'Possible Postponement' of Elections

FL1912165590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1554 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 19, CANA—Guyana's next general election, constitutionally due by May 2,

1991, will almost inevitably be postponed, President Desmond Hoyte said. Hoyte, at a Monday evening news conference, linked the possible postponement to the likelihood that house-to-house enumeration, on which the voters list will be based, would not be complete.

He said: "I have a vested interest in having an early conclusion to this elections exercise. If elections were held tomorrow, I would be happy. In fact, before we had a problem with the list, my date for elections was December 10, 1990."

"House-to-house registration is a time-consuming process. Historical experience in this country has shown that it can take on an average, anywhere between five and six months, depending on a number of factors including the weather and availability of transportation, particularly in.... the hinterland and other far-flung areas."

Hoyte, flanked by Prime Minister Hamilton Green and other officials, announced the government, as a precautionary measure, would extend the life of the current Parliament for at least two months beyond February 2, 1991 when it was due to end in accordance with the Constitution.

"Unless the life of the National Assembly is extended for a limited period, then the assembly would be automically dissolved on February 2, 1991 and we would arrive (at) May 2, 1991, the last day by which elections should be held, without a voters' list in place," Hoyte said.

He said government was taking this step to avert a possible constitutional crisis. He left open the possibility of a further extension if the need arises.

Hoyte said when he is notified by the elections commission that the voter registration exercise had been completed and that a new preliminary voters list was available, Parliament would be dissolved within seven days of such notification.

"If the elections commission notifies me on February 15, then the extension does not stand. The extension will be between the second and 15th of February," Hoyte said.

The government ordered the preparation of a new voters list based on house-to-house enumeration amid opposition pressure after the voters list on which the poll was to be conducted, was found riddled with errors.

Hoyte said he had not been able to obtain the support of opposition leader Cheddi Jagan for a postponement of the general election.

"I have been unable to get a clear-cut response from him. He has remained ambivalent," Hoyte said.

"He must face the logic flowing from the train of events he himself has set in train by requesting house-to-house registration."

Hoyte said arrangements being put in place were intended to ensure the "complete transparency of the elections, their fairness, and due constitutionality."

Government Tables Two Election Reform Amendments

FL2012220590 Bridgetown CANA in English
2046 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec. 20, CANA—The Guyana Government was on Thursday tabling two pieces of legislation to facilitate further electoral reforms. The election-laws- amendment bill 1990 and the representation-of-the-people amendment bill 1990 are to be piloted through Parliament to ensure "maximum transparency of the elections beyond credible doubt." Guyana's government has been accused by its political opponents of widespread rigging and other electoral irregularities. The government has rejected the charges.

The two bills pave the way for the preparation of a new preliminary voters' list through house-to-house registration and for counting of votes at the place of poll. With the new electoral changes, the stage is being set here for the postponement of general elections. President Desmond Hoyte, speaking at a press conference Monday, said that an initial eight-week postponement is necessary as the government seeks to stave off a Constitutional crisis to which there would be no Constitutional solution.

Unless the life of the National Assembly (Parliament) is extended for a limited period, then the Assembly would be automatically dissolved on February 2, 1991 and we would arrive at May 2, 1991, the last day by which elections should be held, without a voters' list in place," Hoyte said.

House-to-house registration is a time-consuming process and historical experience has shown that it can take anywhere between 5-6 months depending on the weather and transportation, expecially in Riverain, hinterland and far-flung areas, the president told journalists.

The Hoyte administration has committed itself to a number of electoral reforms in the wake of a visit by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in October this year.